

Outstanding reference sources: A 1991 selection of recent titles

EDITED BY SARAH BARBARA WATSTEIN

Distinguished reference works selected by the Reference Sources Committee of the ALA Reference and Adult Services Division.

In January, trend forecasters have a field day; the world pauses to reflect on the recent past and to speculate about the future. Forecasters' prognostications concern diverse areas—culture, the economy, the environment, politics; lists of what's "in" and "out" pop up everywhere.

While selecting the year's Outstanding Reference Sources during the 1991 ALA Midwinter Meeting, the members of the Reference Sources Committee joined other forecasters and paused to reflect on trends in our area—reference publishing. Reference publishing continues to be alive and well. Information is definitely "in" and comes in a variety of formats suitable for browsing and scholarship. Ten trends are noted for your review, followed by the 1991 list.

► A-Z dictionaries are still "in," covering a range of subjects from banking to food, from Impressionism to the Vietnam conflict.

► Thumb-through reference

guides continue to be popular, treating subjects as diverse as economic indicators and the animal rights movement.

► One-volume handbooks claim their corner of the reference market, addressing American women's history, opera, or the federal government.

► Little-known and easily sensationalized topics such as witches and witchcraft are the focus of still other sources.

► Subjects receiving more public attention such as homosexuality or the Holocaust have generated reference sources boasting an interdisciplinary, transcultural,

abound—who could resist a work of history and criticism on Latin American writers?

► New comprehensive works on such subjects as African-Americans in science and medicine or Jewish religious life and development will get deserved and heavy use.

► Biographical references on such subjects as art, ballplayers, and women writers offer new material for scholars and fans.

► Eye-opening and aesthetically pleasing sources address such subjects as human anatomy, promising universal appeal and usefulness.

► Stimulating, innovative formats continue to generate interest, resulting in sources that clearly stand out from their competitors, like the selected CD-ROM encyclopedia.

Selection process

The 10 librarians who serve on the Reference Sources Committee represent a wide variety of types of libraries, geographic areas, and professional and personal interests (see p. 394). The list they compile is akin to the *Reference Books Bulletin* cumulation; it reflects the cumulative "knowledge, commitment, creativity, and intellectual curiosity" of a committee. Their 12-month work cycle culminates at the Midwinter Meeting, when individual members present their recommendations for consideration by the entire committee.

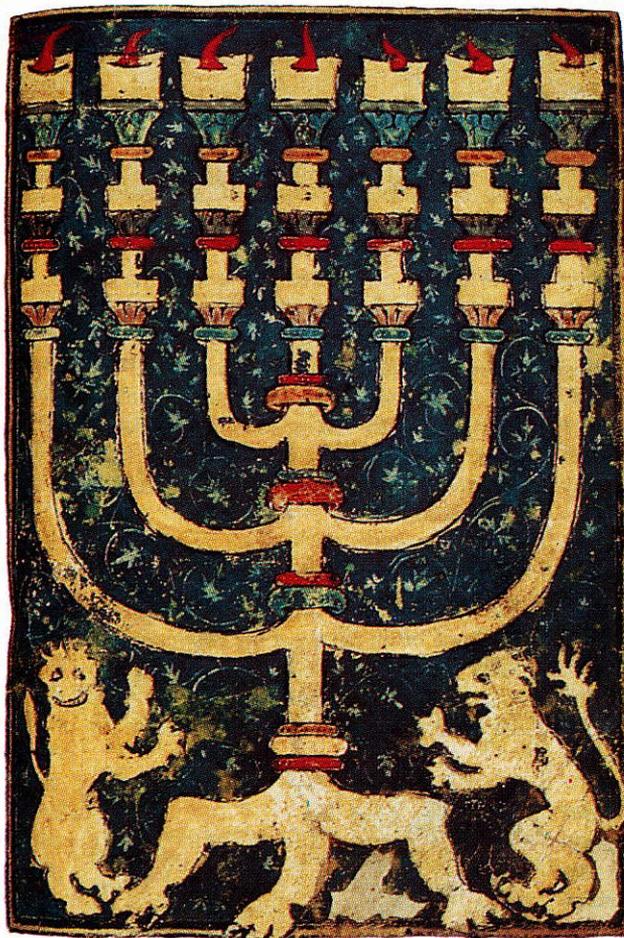
This list of outstanding reference sources, an annual *American Libraries* feature since 1984,² is intended to identify reference works that best meet a need in small and medium-sized academic and public libraries.

Selection criteria

Selection of outstanding sources is directed by criteria approved by the RASD Board of Directors to accommodate nonprint reference sources such as

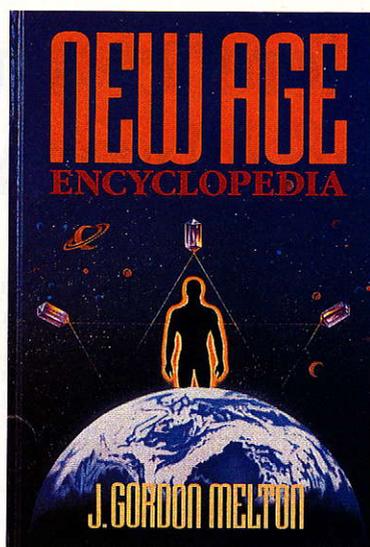
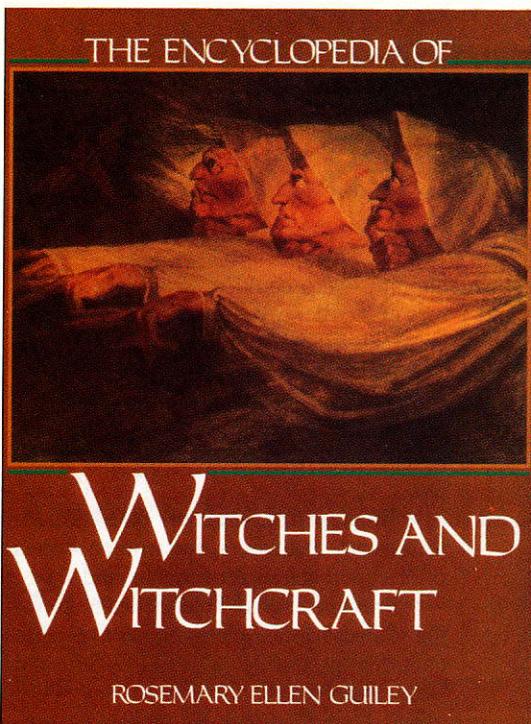
and transhistorical approach.

► Large-scale reference sets still



Decorating the cover of Macmillan's *The Encyclopedia of Judaism* (© 1989 by The Jerusalem Publishing House) is this menorah as depicted in the *Regensburg Pentateuch*, Germany, c. 1300. Reprinted with the permission of the Israel Museum.

SARAH B. WATSTEIN is a professor and head of the Reference Division at Hunter College's Jacqueline Grennan Wexler Library. Her publications include, with Robert Anthony Laurich, *AIDS & Women*, *A Sourcebook* (Oryx, 1990) and, with Martin Kesselman, *End-User Searching in Libraries* (*American Library Association*, 1988).



Thanks to Facts On File and Gale Research such popular topics as witches and witchcraft and the New Age Movement have won attention as reference book subjects. Now users will have objective sources to increase understanding.

microforms, online databases, and optical media. Sources eligible for the list include those that comply with the conventional definition of a reference source—stated in part as “usually comprehensive in scope, condensed in treatment, and arranged on some special plan to facilitate the ready and accurate finding of information...”²³—and those characterized by wide scope and general availability to small and medium-sized college and public libraries. Annuals, yearbooks, and new printings of encyclopedias are considered only when the first issue appears or they contain very important revisions. Similarly, new editions of monographs are eligible only if significantly changed. Reference sources in non-print and electronic formats are eligible for the list if they meet the above criteria, if they do more than simply duplicate another format, and if they meet technical standards. Cost is not a factor in the evaluation of print or nonprint sources.

The 1991 list contains 27 sources representing most subject areas. This year's list leans towards the arts and recreation; geography, biography, and history; and language and literature. Additional sources represent religion, generalities, economics and business, science, law and public administration, and social sciences. One CD-ROM product, *Compton's Multimedia Encyclopedia* (Britannica Software), has the distinction of being included among the 1991 selections, making it the second CD-ROM product to be so honored. Com-

pact Disclosure, the first CD-ROM product to appear on an RASD Reference Sources picks list, was included two years ago. The 1991 list also includes the winner of the 1991 Dartmouth Medal, the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*.

While the committee tries to keep the list as timely as possible, 10 1989 publications were selected for the list. These sources are included because they appeared too late for full consideration by last year's committee. In the 1991 list, reviews of individual sources are arranged by broad subject such as arts and recreation or law and public administration.

On display

The “Outstanding Reference Sources of 1991” will be on display at the Reference and Adult Services Division booth during the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta. After the conference the books will be available for

1990 Picks Alert

The 1990 list (*AL*, May 1990, 411–416, 452–458) included *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County and Town Resources* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1989). Note that the Fall 1990 issue of *APG Quarterly* included an announcement stating that Ancestry had suspended the sale of its 1989 release of *Redbook*. This decision was apparently based on reported factual inaccuracies in certain chapters.

loan to any interested group for exhibits at regional, state, or local meetings for the cost of transportation. For further information, contact Andrew Hansen, Executive Director, Reference and Adult Services Division, American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

The librarians who served on the Reference Sources Committee are: Susan K. Cohen, Westfield Memorial (N.J.) Library; Scott Kennedy, University of Connecticut, Storrs; Marlene Kuhl, Catonsville Area Branch, Baltimore, Md.; Mary E. Larson, Carl B. Ylvisaker Library, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.; Dale Luchsinger, Athens Area Technical Institute, Athens, Ga.; Donald Maxwell, Carmel Clay Public Library, Carmel, Ind.; Deborah L. Thomas, D. Hiden Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville, N.C.; David A. Tyckoson, State University of New York at Albany, N.Y.; Sarah Barbara Watstein, City University of New York, New York, N.Y., chair; and Barbara Wurtzel, Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield, Mass.

THE ARTS AND RECREATION

The Ballplayers, by Mike Shatzkin. 1,230 p. New York: Morrow, 1990 (0-87795-984-6), \$39.95.

The crack of the bat and the sound of “play ball” echoes through the pages of this baseball encyclopedia. Biographical sketches and complete career information of 5,000 major league players and managers from the 19th century through 1989 make this a comprehensive source of baseball biography.

Each entry begins with a list of significant statistics and achievements. Player position, summary career stats, awards, and nicknames are just a few of the items included. An additional 1,000 entries covering umpires; broadcasters; sports writers; scouts; league executives; ballparks; major, minor, and minority leagues; and other baseball-related material—there's an entry for Abbott and Costello's classic “Who's On First” routine—expand the scope of this highly readable, fact-filled encyclopedia of “the field of dreams.”

Food Lover's Companion: Comprehensive



From the Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the Presidency is this photo of President Calvin Coolidge (in hat) meeting with members of the Sioux Indian Republican Club in March 1925.

Definitions of Over 3000 Food, Wine, and Culinary Terms, by Sharon Tyler Herbst. 582 p. New York: Barron's Educational Series, Inc., 1990 (0-8120-4156-9), pap. \$10.95.

If you don't know a shank bone from a trotter, or where mace comes from, this book is for you. Here in one list are all those food words you think will be easy to find, but that mysteriously disappear from reference books when you look for them. Did you know chicle is the base for chewing gum? Chicle comes from the tree of the same name, which comes from South America. Were you aware that a chinoise is a conical sieve with a handle that can be used to rice potatoes? The illustrations display every possible cut of meat in full detail. There is even a seven-page bibliography. This book will fill a gap you may not know you have.

International Dictionary of Art and Artists: Artists, edited by James Vinson. 1,934 p. Chicago: St. James Press, 1990 (1-55862-055-9), \$250 for 2-vol. set (vol. 1: *Art*).

A biographical dictionary of some 500 of the "most important" artists of the

Western world from the 13th to the 20th centuries (Cimabue to Hockney). But not just a biographical dictionary. Each entry is divided into four parts: basic facts about the artist's life and career, a listing of the most important public and private collections of her/his work, a bibliography of book and periodical articles (by and about), and a critical essay discussing historical and critical aspects of the art and artist.

Can be paired with *International Dictionary of Art and Artists: Art* (1,008 p., 1-55862-001-X), which includes critical essays on approximately 500 individual works of art, chronologically arranged.

The International Opera Guide, by Freddie Stockdale and Martin Dreyer. 342 p. North Pomfret, Vt.: Trafalgar Square Publishing, 1990 (0-943955-27-0), \$24.95.

An opera guide with a difference—an international directory of opera houses, companies, and festivals from 40 countries. In addition to providing a history of the house/company and its address and location on a map of the city, this work also gives a seating plan of the house, the tele-

phone and fax numbers, refreshment facilities, public transportation, names of acceptable credit cards, and more. A shorter list of smaller houses gives only the last-mentioned details, with no history, map, or seating plan.

The second half of the book includes summaries of major operas, with significant arias highlighted, along with biographies of the composers.

The Thames and Hudson Encyclopaedia of Impressionism, by Bernard Denvir. 240 p. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1990 (0-500-20239-7), pap. \$11.95.

Impressionist art is probably the most popular of all art. This encyclopedia of Impressionism is a goldmine of information about anything and everything related to that period and type of art. Not only are the obvious entries there—painters, technique, and localities—but also topics such as dealers, patrons, critics, models. The social, political, and cultural background sets everything in context.

Cross-references pull the reader from one entry to another and bibliographies give valuable additional resources. A sub-



In such works as *The Swing* (1876) Renoir tried to reveal light as it truly was perceived—reprinted from *The Thames and Hudson Encyclopaedia of Impressionism*.

ject index groups entries into several broad areas (e.g., The Art Market, Patrons and Collectors, and Dealers) enabling readers to select areas of greatest interest. Other features: some pictures (mostly black-and-white), maps, a chronology, and gazetteer of collections.

GENERALITIES

Compton's Multimedia Encyclopedia. San Francisco: Britannica Software, 1990 (1-

56730-125-5), \$795 lib. edition; \$895 home edition.

While there are several standard encyclopedias currently available for library and home use, only one can claim to provide the reader with text, illustrations, sound, and video. *Compton's Multimedia Encyclopedia* contains the full text of all of the articles and fact boxes in the printed *Compton's*, but it also contains a dictionary of over 65,000 words, 15,000 illustrations, 60 minutes of digital audio, and 45 examples of full-motion video animation. The entire work is contained on a single CD-ROM disc.

The accompanying software runs on any IBM-compatible equipment, and selections are made using a mouse. In addition to the standard title, author, and keyword search techniques, users of the encyclopedia can find information by progressing through features such as hierarchical "topic trees"; an "idea search," which allows users to enter phrases or questions; a "picture finder"; time lines; and an atlas. In each case, the user may refine or modify the search by selecting from the menus and icons presented by the software.

The search software is designed to mimic the way that users think, rather than forcing users to use Boolean logic. *Compton's Multimedia Encyclopedia* represents an excellent marriage of new technologies with traditional reference works, and it effectively utilizes textual, audio, and animated images to convey information to its readers.

This work clearly adds up to a whole that is much more than the sum of its parts.

New Age Encyclopedia, by J. Gordon Melton, Jerome Clark, and Aidan A. Kelly. 586 p. Detroit: Gale Research, 1990 (0-8103-7159-6), \$59.50.

As a system of "beliefs, concepts, terms, people, and organizations that make up the new global movement toward spiritual development, health and healing, higher consciousness, and related subjects," the New Age movement is often the object of hyperbole, skepticism, and/or misunderstanding. The *New Age Encyclopedia* provides users with an objective reference source describing and defining New Age issues. Aimed at both believers and nonbelievers, this work provides a comprehensive and clear overview of the many concepts, leaders, and works that have helped to develop the still-evolving movement. An appendix of educational institutions offering programs in New Age topics and an introductory chronology supply additional access.

The Encyclopedia of Witches and Witch-
(Reference Sources continued on p. 433.)

(Reference Sources continued from p. 397.)
craft, by Rosemary Ellen Guiley. 421 p.
 New York: Facts On File, 1989 (0-8160-
 1793-X), \$45; (0-8160-2268-2), pap. \$19.95.

Witches and witchcraft, an ever-popular topic among school-age researchers, has recently become the subject of a great deal of academic study. This work is the first reference source in over 30 years dedicated to this field. It provides descriptions of the rituals and beliefs associated with witchcraft as well as biographies of witches from ancient times to the present day. Entries are also provided for topics frequently related to witchcraft, such as Satanism, voodoo, and other rituals. This work will be especially useful for its biographical information and its entries related to the current practices of witchcraft.

GEOGRAPHY, BIOGRAPHY, AND HISTORY

Blacks in Science and Medicine, by Vivian Ovelton Sammons. 293 p. New York: Taylor & Francis/Hemisphere Publishing Company, 1989 (0-89116-665-3), \$45.

Any librarian who has tried to find lists of African-American scientists or "famous first" African-Americans will welcome this comprehensive guide to over 1,500 African-American men and women in a wide range of scientific fields. Each entry

includes dates, specialties, educational background, organizational affiliations, publications, and sources of information. The index is remarkable, listing the scientists by occupation and by research topic. It also includes both "first blacks" and "first," both significant for students and researchers. A definitive work that should be in every library.

Dictionary of American Immigration History, edited by Francesco Cordasco. 810 p. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1990 (0-8108-2241-5), \$97.50.

This unique dictionary of American (mostly U.S., with some Canadian) immigration history contains 2,500 well-cross-referenced, signed entries including biographical sketches, ethnic groups, associations, unions, legislation, movements, and major themes (e.g., ethnicity; assimilation, and nativism). The emphasis of this book is on the period from the 1880s, when the U.S. Congress began to actively administer immigration, to the passage of the Immigration and Control Act in 1986. This era is succinctly and superbly summarized in a 10-page introduction. Most entries have a short bibliography, while a 130-item bibliography appears at the end of the volume.

Encyclopedia of the Holocaust, edited by Israel Gutman. 4 vols., 1,905 p. New York: Macmillan, 1990 (0-02-896090-4), \$335.

The Holocaust has been studied for over 50 years and will continue to be the subject of research in the future. Now there is a definitive encyclopedia that brings together

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the background, history, and impact of this event and makes it accessible to the general reader.

The four volumes contain 950 signed articles arranged alphabetically. Biographical, geographical, and comprehensive articles on broad subjects such as anti-Semitism, art, and psychology of survivors, serve to provide an in-depth examination and understanding of the Holocaust. Articles are supplemented by 650 photographs and 200 maps, charts, and tables. The index volume also contains an excellent glossary and hard-to-locate information



Standing alone in the foreground at bottom right is Dr. Robert Servatius, a member of the defense counsel for *The Medical Case* at the 1946-47 Nuremberg Military Tribunals—from the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* (Macmillan). He later headed the Eichman Trial defense team.

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such as Jewish losses by country and charts of the Nuremberg Trials that list war criminals, dates of trials, and verdicts.

The *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* stands as a monument that will educate and perhaps enable us to begin to comprehend the magnitude of this human tragedy.

Handbook of American Women's History, edited by Angela Howard Zophy. 763 p. New York: Garland, 1990 (0-8240-8744-5), \$75.

A readable new introduction to the study of American women's history, this handbook is a great starting point for beginning researchers. While many of the entries are biographical, others cover associations, laws and court cases, social movements, and many aspects of popular culture. The entries are clearly written and concise and conclude with brief bibliogra-

phies. Good cross-references and an extensive index make the book easy to use. A fundamental purchase for academic, public, and high school libraries.

United States Intelligence: An Encyclopedia, edited by Bruce W. Watson, Susan M. Watson, and Gerald W. Hopple. 792 p. New York: Garland, 1990 (0-8240-3713-8), \$95.

More and more, the public is demanding to know what the intelligence community is really up to. This encyclopedia, covering the period from the end of World War II to the present day, will help answer some of these questions. The work includes biographies, terminology, events, techniques, and organizational structure, with specific emphasis on topics relating to the military and to weapons systems. Unique to this encyclopedia are a 63-page list of acronyms

as well as appendixes reprinting various presidential executive orders and federal laws that help the reader understand the organizations involved and the political background of events. Excellent cross-references and bibliographies contribute to the source's overall quality and usefulness.

LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

The Feminist Companion to Literature in English: Women Writers from the Middle Ages to the Present, edited by Virginia Blain, Patricia Clements, and Isobel Grundy. 1,231 p. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1990 (0-300-04854-8), \$49.95.

Finally we have a source that presents for the first time a comprehensive reference work covering the full spectrum of women writers who have used the English language as their medium of expression. This includes not only British, American, Canadian, and Australian women but African, Asian, Caribbean, and South Pacific women as well. It includes not only those who wrote within the standard genres but also those who wrote diaries, letters, travelogues, and treatises. Over 2,700 biographical entries, most of about 500 words, seek to set each writer in the context of her time and to intimate her relevance to us today. Additional entries detail important genres, events, groups, and institutions. Entries are arranged alphabetically and include mention of major scholarship. The *Feminist Companion to Literature in English* establishes a rich field of reference from which many readers and scholars will begin their explorations and to which they will often return.

Guide to American Poetry Explication, Volume 1: Colonial and Nineteenth Century, by James Ruppert. 264 p. Boston: G.K. Hall & Company, 1989 (0-8161-8919-6), \$40.

Guide to American Poetry Explication, Volume 2: Modern and Contemporary, by John R. Leo. 576 p. Boston: G.K. Hall & Company, 1989 (0-8161-8918-8), \$50.

Over the past 10 years, among the most frequently consulted sources in any college library has been Kuntz and Martinez's *Poetry Explication*, a one-volume compendium published in 1980. With the *Guide to American Poetry Explication*, G.K. Hall has

initiated a significant revision of that standard work, expanding the coverage by including explications published through 1987, explications of works having more than 500 lines, and explications of lesser-known poets from diverse cultural backgrounds. Three more volumes on British poetry explication, due out shortly, will complete the set.

The volumes are easy to use: references to explications are arranged by poet and then under each poet's name, by poem title. Ample margins allow the key to journal title abbreviations and the bibliography of monographic works cited to be annotated for the convenience of local users. These volumes, directing users to explications of individual poems, will become the place many students of poetry will begin their research, now and for many years to come.

Latin American Writers, edited by Carlos A. Sole and Maria Isabel Abreu. 3 vols. 1,750 p. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1989 (0-684-18463-X), \$250.

Latin American Writers is a grand work. Through this collection of authoritative essays on 176 individual writers, the 500-year-old literary culture of Spanish America and Brazil is given substance and brought into the consciousness of the English-speaking world. Each of the 2,500-10,000-word essays provides a biographical narrative, a discussion of important cultural and historical issues relating to the writer, a description and evaluation of the writer's works, and a select bibliography including English translations and relevant critical commentary. The novelists, poets, playwrights, essayists, and journalists included represent the major voices in Latin American literary culture. Now that these voices are being heard more generally by readers in the English-speaking world, it is useful to have a reference work that places each of them in a specific cultural context.

Physically, the volumes are well-manufactured: the paper is alkaline and free from groundwood; the volumes are sewn in signatures; and the grain of the paper runs parallel to the spine. Intellectually, the volumes enrich our understanding of the New World experience as it evolved beyond our borders to the south. As a result of this happy conjoining of body and spirit, the books open well and will stay open for a long time.

Words of the Vietnam War: The Slang, Jargon, Abbreviations, Acronyms, Nomenclature, Nicknames, Pseudonyms, Slogans, Specs, Euphemisms, Double-talk, Chants, and Names and Places of the Era of United

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Gathered for selection of the 1991 outstanding reference sources at ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Chicago are (back row, left to right) Mary E. Larson, David Tyckoson, Dale Luchsinger, Marlene Kuhl, Deborah Thomas, Donald Maxwell; and (front, left to right) Barbara Wurtzel, Sarah Watstein, Scott Kennedy, and Susan Cohen.

States Involvement in Vietnam, by Gregory Clark. 614 p. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1990 (0-89950-465-5), \$45.

How would you fare in a HALO? (A HALO is a high altitude/low opening parachute jump). Do you remember what

the acronym ARVN meant? (It stands for Army of the Republic of Viet Nam, but American soldiers used it as a generic reference to South Vietnamese military personnel.) Does the slogan "Dow shalt not kill" bring back memories?

This alphabetical list is everything its subtitle claims, and more. Many of the entries are cross-referenced, often to several other terms. No group, be it military, political, or peace activist, is ignored. It is remarkable how well the anger, the purposeful misunderstandings, the self-righteousness, and the pain of that era are communicated through our choice of language. Above all, this book provides the terms we still need to better understand our actions at that time.

Gregory Clark has created a clear, simple, and vital reference tool. You might even want a circulating copy.

SCIENCE

Atlas of Human Anatomy, by Frank H. Netter; Sharon Colacino, consulting editor. 592 p. Summit, N.J.: Ciba-Geigy Corpora-

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tion, 1989 (0-914168-18-5), \$120; (0-914168-19-3), pap. \$49.

Very rarely, a book is so well done, so perfect in concept and completion that it becomes an instant classic. *Atlas of Human Anatomy* is such a book. In this atlas by area of the human body Dr. Netter has devised a work that is accessible to the novice, but detailed enough to provide a medical student with the visual data necessary for a complete understanding of what is where.

Dr. Netter starts from the head down, and he has included both infant anatomy and that of the aged, as well as that of the male and the female, so that differences can be seen. Also presented are special situations, such as jaws widely and slightly open. The legends on the plates are clear and keys to the colors used are given when necessary. Among the work's features: cross-sectional views, topographic views, medial views; special topical plates, such as the circulation of cerebrospinal fluid; cross-references to other relevant plates; and plates of individual muscles. The *Atlas* has references and a 36-page index. It will be a mainstay of your reference shelf.

Keyguide to Information Sources in Animal Rights, by Charles R. Magel. 281 p. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1989 (0-89950-405-1), \$39.95; (0-86554-373-9), pap. \$27.50.

A carefully crafted and scholarly overview to the literature and philosophy of the animal rights movement, this *Keyguide* consists of four parts. Part one is a collection of bibliographic essays on such topics as science and animals; these essays cite books, periodicals, audiovisual materials, and works for children. Part two contains a bibliography with lengthy annotations (beginning with Ovid on vegetarianism), while part three is an unannotated bibliography of about 1,000 entries. Part four contains a directory of animal rights organizations and a list of other information sources. This keyguide is unique in its historical and philosophical coverage of this timely issue.

LAW AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the Presidency, edited by Michael Nelson. 1,512 p. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1989 (0-87187-500-4), \$159.

Another fine work in CQ's usual in-depth style, the *Guide to the Presidency* is the source for all aspects of the presidency.

In addition, detailed biographies of each President and First Lady are also included. Attractively presented, the *Guide* features more than 400 black-and-white photographs, as well as 200 charts and tables. The extensive appendices include the text of 40 significant documents, a complete list of cabinet members, Gallup Poll presidential approval ratings—and that's only for starters. Every library wanting the most complete, up-to-date, and authoritative work on the presidency will want to purchase this work.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Encyclopedia of Homosexuality, edited by Wayne R. Dynes. 2 vols. 1,484 p. New York: Garland, 1990 (0-8240-65441), \$150.

An excellent, objective work on the phenomenology of female and male homosexuality, this two-volume encyclopedia presents a wealth of information. Eighty-six scholars have contributed 770 signed articles on topics relating to homosexuality's history in various cultures, creative contributions in various fields such as art and literature, and its legal aspects. Also treated are such subjects as its impact on religion, philosophy, politics, psychology, and medicine. Approaches range from broad surveys to in-depth examinations of specific topics or people. An excellent index and abundant cross-references enhance the value of this work. A broad audience will find the information scholarly and interesting. There has been a great need for an encyclopedia on homosexuality, and Dynes has given us a remarkable work of high quality.

RELIGION

Dictionary of Christianity in America: A Comprehensive Resource on the Religious Impulse that Shaped a Continent, edited by Daniel G. Reid. 1,306 p. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1990 (0-8308-1776-X), \$39.95.

What is Hicksites? Locate the activities of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. What is Old Lights? Information on these topics and other movements, denominations, and individuals who left their mark on Christianity are among the 4,000 topics that are included in this source.

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Broad coverage of Christianity primarily in a historical perspective is provided in articles that are clear and concise. Cross- and see-references facilitate the quick location of information. Articles are signed and many have bibliographies. A convenient source for authoritative information on Christianity in English-speaking North America.

The Encyclopedia of Judaism, edited by Geoffrey Wigoder. 768 p. New York: Macmillan, 1989 (0-02-628410-3), \$75.

This handsome work is a successful single volume for information on Judaism. With glossy paper and illustrations (some in color) used throughout the book, the physical attractiveness invites the user to browse for topics of interest. It is authoritative and represents current thinking among Jewish scholars from Reform, Orthodox, and Conservative Judaism. Entries are arranged with topics in alphabetical order. Some biographical articles are included. Librarians in academic and public libraries will welcome this resource to the reference collection.

Mercer Dictionary of the Bible, edited by Watson E. Mills. 987 p. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1990 (0-86554-299-6), \$56; (0-86554-373-9), pap. \$27.50.

A balanced dictionary with Biblical scholarship that is thorough and current makes this an appealing provider of Bible information. The 1,450 signed articles with an alphabetical arrangement give users relevant information on a variety of Biblical subjects. Consideration of feminist thought is evident in appropriate articles and represents a breakthrough in providing users with information that has often been patriarchal in other similar works. The up-to-date Biblical scholarship in an attractively formatted Bible dictionary make this a reference source useful for a broad spectrum of libraries.

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

Guide to Economic Indicators, by Norman Frumkin. 242 p. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 1990 (0-87332-521-4), \$29.95; (0-87332-620-2), pap. \$15.95.

For the average Joe, the many economic indicators (i.e., balance of trade, consumer price index, consumer confidence index,

value of the dollar, etc.) reported in the media can be difficult to understand and appreciate. This book clarifies the mystery by explaining 52 indicators on the U.S. economy for persons who have no special background in economics by explaining what each indicator means, what it measures, how it is derived, and where it is published (primary and secondary sources). Accuracy and relevance of the indicators are discussed, as are such concepts as index numbers and seasonal adjustment. Perhaps of greatest value is the discussion of how to better understand the economy with the indicators, or, with groups of indicators, trends in labor, supply and demand, inflation, finance, and economic well-being. This well-bound book will find a place in corporate as well as public and academic libraries.

Manufacturing U.S.A.: Industry Analysis, Statistics, and Leading Companies, edited by Arsen J. Darnay. 1,755 p. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research, 1989 (0-8103-7442-0), \$159.

A ton of information is compiled and concisely and consistently presented in this first edition of a major new business reference source. Previously widely scattered data on 448 manufacturing industries (with Standard Industrial Codes from 2001 to 3999) is conveniently incorporated here as an alternative to the many print and nonprint sources from which it was derived. For each industry, graphics show trends and geographical areas of concentration. Charts show general wage, employment, and production statistics and trends; comparisons to manufacturing as a whole; leading companies; industries providing input; product categories within the industry; occupations employed; and industry data by state. All information is documented and well-indexed.

This new source will find a comfortable place in public, academic, and corporate libraries. □

Notes

1. Earlier lists of outstanding reference sources appeared in *Library Journal*. The RASD Board of Directors decided at the 1983 San Antonio Midwinter Meeting that this annual list should be published in an ALA membership journal. *American Libraries* was the logical choice.

2. Christine Whittington, "Preface" in *Reference Books Bulletin 1987-1988* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1988) V-VI.

3. From Isadore Gilbert Mudge's introduction to the 6th edition of *Guide to Reference Books* (American Library Association, 1936).

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