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From the Reference Desk-Encyclopedia of Fundamentalism, Encyclopedia of Christmas, Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies and Encyclopedia of Ethics

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From the Reference Desk

Column Editor: **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, College of Charleston) <gilson@cofc.edu>

With the publication of the *Encyclopedia of Fundamentalism* (2001, 0415922445 \$125), Routledge was either prescient or just plain lucky. The worldwide impact of religious fundamentalism has never been more obvious and a "good" reference book describing its various manifestations should prove popular. Routledge is fortunate on this count too for editor **Brenda Brasher** has produced a well-designed and informative work that, while it concentrates on the American experience, does cover other brands of fundamentalism. The concentration is on social implications of American fundamentalism from the Roman Catholic Cult of Mary to the Azusa Street Revival of the Pentecostal movement and ranges from doctrines like the Rapture and the Second Coming to the political impact of the New Christian Right. In addition, there are articles on issues like evolution and creationism, concepts like the antichrist and eternal life and practices like faith healing and speaking in tongues. Other articles explore fundamentalism's relationship to the entertainment industry and rock music, its use of televangelism and mass media and the short-lived popularity of movements like the Promise Keepers. While the emphasis is on Christian fundamentalism in the United States, there are also a number of entries that point to the global nature of the movement. Articles on Sunni Muslims, Haredim, fundamental Hinduism, the Taliban, and Protestant fundamentalism in Southeast Asia speak to this worldwide impact.

Regarding physical layout, the text is well organized with a list of entries, an index and "see also" references linking the related entries. Each article has its own bibliography, the length of which depends on the topic. My only complaint is the annoying practice of listing contributors without their full credentials.

Fundamentalism is a controversial topic in some quarters but the treatment here is scholarly, fact driven and objective. While the coverage is broad, it gives readers a real taste of the diverse complexity inherent in the topic.

As part of the growing

Routledge Encyclopedias of Religion and Society series, the *Encyclopedia of Fundamentalism* maintains the quality evidenced in the other books in the series. (See *ATG* Feb. 2001, p. 50.) This is one of those reference books that deals with a topic that has such broad appeal, it is of equal value to public and academic libraries. In short, a number of libraries will welcome it on their reference shelves.

Another title that will enjoy a large audience is McFarland's *Christmas Encyclopedia* (2001, 0786410345, \$55) by **William D. Crump**. Nearly 350 entries explain the customs, symbols and myths that have grown up around this holiday. Crump pays special attention to the ways Christmas is celebrated in different countries throughout the world. There are individual entries for countries ranging from Italy to Romania and from Iceland to the Ukraine. As you would expect, the country coverage is primarily centered on the Americas and Europe, but there are also survey articles on Asia, Africa, Australia and the Middle East. Another strength is the inclusion of articles on popular films, television programs and other media entertainment. These articles run the gamut from discussing cartoons like *Tom and Jerry's Night before Christmas* to classic films like *It's a Wonderful Life* to songs like *Jingle Bell Rock*. This is not to say that more traditional Christmas topics are neglected. There are articles on Christmas Carols, the Nutcracker, Handel's *Messiah*, Santa Claus, mistletoe, and the Christmas tree.

While **Tanya Gulevich's** award winning *Encyclopedia of Christmas* (Omnigraphics, 1999, 0780803876, \$48) is stronger in relating traditional customs and practices, Crump's book lends added historic perspective. He does a good job in discussing the historic context in each of his country articles as well as covering pre-Christian celebrations like the Yule and the Saturnalia. Additionally, his coverage of recent popular entertainment is a unique plus not found in Gulevich's work. Reference librarians will want both of these books in their collections.

The Galegroup strikes again with another smartly packaged series of reference books. Published out of sequence, the third volume of the *World Eras* series, *Roman Republic & Empire 264 B. C. E. - 476 C. E.* (2001, 0787645044, \$95) is now available. Modeled on their successful *American Decades* and *American Eras* sets, this recent series expands the historical treatment to major world civilizations. Both content and presentation continue to be strengths with this recent series. Editor **John Kirby**

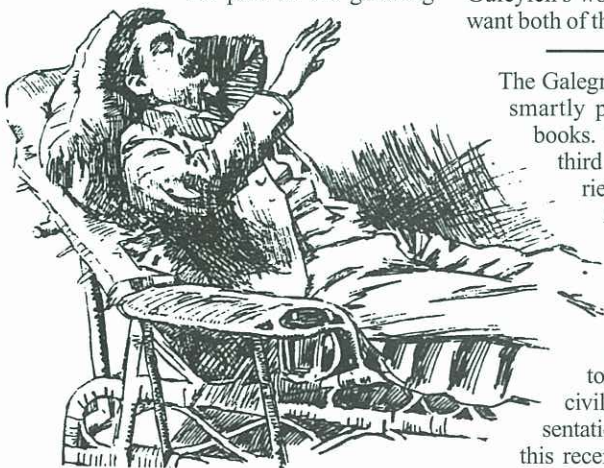
organizes these books into 10 chapter headings including an initial world events chronology followed by a chapter on geography to place the era in context. These are followed by chapters on the arts, transportation and communication, social class and the economy, politics, law and the military, leisure, recreation and daily life, the family and social trends, religion and philosophy and science technology and health. Each of the chapters is further subdivided into specific categories. In the case of *Roman Republic & Empire 264 B. C. E. - 476 C. E.*, a look at the table of contents shows three major breakdowns: specific topics, significant people and documentary sources. For example, the chapter on the arts covers topics like architecture, music, and painting and mosaics, people like Suetonius, Vergil, and Tacitus and brief descriptions of sources like Caesar's *Gallic Wars*, Cicero's *Speeches* and Augustine's *Confessions*. The writing is crisp and to the point with references to original sources throughout.

Roman history is complex and multifaceted. In Kirby's *Roman Republic & Empire*, the topic coverage combines with the accessible arrangement and well-chosen visuals and sidebars to offer students a key to this complexity. This book should prove very useful to high school students and first year undergraduates in answering basic questions and providing useful background for further study.

(The first volume, *World Eras: Classical Greek Civilization 800-323 B. C.* (0787617075, \$125) was published in 2000.)

Postcolonial Studies is an emerging field of literary study that, by necessity, forms from the coalescence of various disciplines. It draws heavily on history, politics, area studies, critical theory and many other fields. With the *Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies* (2001, 0313311927, \$95) Greenwood Press has just published a reference that tries to pull all these threads together. Edited by **John C. Hawley**, this book is concerned with the "globalization" of literature as appreciation grows for the literary output of former colonies as distinct "literatures." As Hawley says in his introduction, "it is important that the field be seen as inherently comparative" and that there is "a clear impression that the field of postcolonial studies arises in all literatures." Supporting this premise, the *Encyclopedia* offers articles on basic concepts like creolization, nation/nationalism, pan-Africanism and Eurocentrism, as well as significant "third world" writers like **Ngugi wa Thiong'o**, **V.S. Naipaul** and **Nawal el Saadawi**. There is also coverage of influential scholars like **Edward Said**, **Homi Bhabha** and **Fatima Mernissi** who have helped lend definition to the field. In addition, there are summary articles on national literatures ranging from Canadian to Zimba-

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bwean and those that are language-based like Chinese, Francophone and Indian-language literature. The *Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies* is thoroughly grounded in current scholarship and will be of value to students for background information and to faculty as a handbook helping to define the discipline.

As with any emerging field of study, there are sometimes more questions than answers and the *Encyclopedia* reflects this edgy vibrancy. It offers a snapshot in time of a developing discipline and for that reason alone it is an important work. Academic libraries supporting a diverse curriculum of literary studies will find it deserving of a place on their shelves.

The New Year also witnesses the arrival of a number of worthy revised and updated editions. Routledge has released second editions of the *Encyclopedia of Ethics* (2001, 0415936721, \$295) and *Historic U.S. Court Cases: An Encyclopedia* (2001, 0415937566, \$150). Last published in 1992, *Encyclopedia of Ethics* has been expanded to 3 volumes and includes 580 entries by 325 scholars. (The 1st edition had 425 articles by 267 authors.) The emphasis on ethical theory, which was the hallmark of the first edition, has been maintained. Concepts ranging from agnosticism to aesthetics and from pragmatism to self-respect are treated, as are issues like euthanasia, the right to life and welfare rights. In addition, there are a number of articles on influential thinkers from ancient times through the middle ages, on to the present. (There is also an extensive survey article entitled the history of western ethics that is 87 pages long.)


Aside from the 150 new entries, all the original entries were newly peer reviewed and a number revised while others dropped and folded within other articles. All in all, this version of the *Encyclopedia of Ethics* is just more of a good thing. The content has been expanded some 30% while the quality of the scholarship has been fully maintained. With its stress on ethical theory, this set is a nice complement to Academic Press' *Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics* (1998 0122270657, \$645). Libraries that found the first edition valuable will be even more impressed with this new version.

Historic U.S. Court Cases: An Encyclopedia has also been updated and expanded. It is now in 2 volumes and treats 43 new cases including the Microsoft antitrust case, the Supreme Court ruling in the Florida election, the Ames espionage case and, of course, the O.J. Simpson trial. The second edition is organized much like first. It is divided into major categories like civil liberties then subcategorized into specifics like the freedom of speech, freedom of religion, privacy, and obscenity and pornography. Within these subcategories the cases are presented chronologically. Editor

John W. Johnson assembled 85 contributors including legal experts, historians and political scientists with legal specialties, academics in government and other related scholars. The essays vary in length from 2000-5000 words depending on the significance of the case. The essays in these 2 volumes are more than just factual accounts. They do a commendable job of describing the context within which each case was decided, as well as discussing the various legal maneuverings. The writing is reader friendly and unburdened by legal jargon. Each essay has a sidebar that discusses the case in brief and a selected bibliography. My only argument with this set is that the bibliographies could have been more substantial. Although the citations all come from scholarly sources they are limited in number. Nonetheless, the second edition of *Historic U.S. Court Cases: An Encyclopedia* is a worthy successor to the original. While it does not cover as many cases as the Galegroup *Great American Court Cases* (1999, 0787629472, \$375), the essays are more comprehensive. It would be a valuable addition to both public and academic library reference collections.

Premiering in 1992, the *Oxford Atlas of the World* (2001, 0195218485, \$75) is now in

its 9th edition and continues to be an outstanding resource. Sections like the narrative introduction to world geography, the city maps and the satellite images of earth remain, while the "one missing element" criticized in the *Library Journal* review of the 8th edition has been addressed. This new edition has a 32-page gazetteer of nations with basic statistical and country summaries as well as images of national flags.

But the central focus of the book is the 176 pages of world maps. Digitally produced, these maps jump off the page with their vivid clarity defining political boundaries as well as topographic details. There are individual sections for each continent, maps of world and the major oceans and their islands. As with many geographical references, spellings can be a problem. Look on the map of Afghanistan for the city of Kandahar and you will not find it. It is spelled Quandahar in this atlas, but luckily the index provides a see reference along with the correct page number for the map. Libraries wishing a high quality atlas with up to date geographic representations at a reasonable price need look no further. There is also a new *Concise Atlas of the World* (2001, 0195217918, \$45) sized to make xerox copying more convenient. 

International Dateline — The Frankfurt Book Fair, 2001

The Frankfurt Book Fair, 2001: Librarians Are Welcome

by Barry Fast (Vice President, Delta International) <barry0112@aol.com>

It is now a cliché to say that nothing has been the same since September 11. Nothing, that is, except traveling by airplane. In early October I checked in at United's JFK facility for my trip to Frankfurt. I was asked the usual questions: Did I pack my own bag; had anyone asked me to carry anything on the plane; was I carrying anything electronic? Resisting the impulse to confess that a guy named Mohammed had paid me to smuggle aboard some semtex, I ruefully accepted the fact that the airlines' gesture toward increased security consisted of little more than the substitution of plastic for metal cutlery with their food service. I comforted myself with the realization that none of these half-baked security measures matter anyway. The next time an attempt is made to hijack a plane, the passengers will rise as one and tear the hijackers limb from limb. Gone are the days when meek passengers hunker down and accept the ride to Cuba or Sudan.

After a year of working with Blackwell when Dan Halloran and I sold Academic Book Center to them in 1999, a year in the company of committed colleagues and friends, I'd decided to move on, enjoy more family time, and work part time with my friend, Nick Boisseau, who owns Delta International.

Delta is a British-based export wholesaler, supplying British books to bookstores and library suppliers in over seventy countries. Nick asked me to help develop their business in the Americas, as well as some other markets around the world. Now my travel is almost entirely international, enabling me to see a lot more of the world, often with my wife along for enjoyment. But there are occasional downsides. On September 11, I was returning to the U.S. from England, and our plane was sent back to London when the U.S. closed our air space. It was five days before I could be with my family and take part in the mourning that engulfed all of us here. I write this over a month later, and a pall of sadness still hangs over New York as the memorial services continue.

The Frankfurt Book Fair, therefore, offered more than its usual excitement and opportunities. This year it meant a kind of return to the real world, or should I say the former world, an escape from the heavy atmosphere of the World Trade Center ruins that still smolder two months after the collapse. If, on September 10, those buildings represented New York's pride, and perhaps even arrogance, in their soaring domination of the financial district skyline, they represent today our vul-

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