

University of the Pacific

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Sources: Encyclopedia of the Documentary Film (Review)

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styles, instruments, and other characteristics of the blues. It is very helpful that almost all the entries include a bibliography and discography pertinent to the entry. An extensive index, two hundred pages long, is included. Some black-and-white photographs add further interest to the text.

Entries vary from a brief paragraph to extensive essays. For example, the entry under "Harmonica" presents a history of the instrument, a description of the types of harmonicas, detailed instructions on playing the instrument, categories of harmonica music, and an introduction to the harmonica's most influential players. Other equally complete and detailed examples are the entries for "Hispanic Influence on the Blues" and "Historiography." The entry under "Periodicals" includes a list of blues journals, newsletters, fanzines, and additional serial publications.

There are several other recent publications of blues reference books that also make a rich contribution to the genre. Irwin Stambler and Lyndon Stambler's *Folk and Blues: The Encyclopedia* (St. Martin's, 2001) is a one-volume work that contains interesting introductory essays and an extensive list of awards in the fields of folk and blues music. *The Language of the Blues from Alcorub to Zuzu* by Debra DeSalva (Billboard Bks., 2006) and *Blues* by Dick Weissman (Facts On File, 2006) are both short works with discography and bibliographical references. Gerard Herzhaft's second edition of *Encyclopedia of the Blues* (Univ. of Arkansas Pr., 1997) contains many very fine photographs and appendixes, including a list of blues standards. But none of these works are as extensive and inclusive as Komara's new set.

Encyclopedia of the Blues is well worth its price for most liberal arts colleges and universities. It will be of interest to music students and to non-music majors doing research in this area. Some high schools might also want to consider for purchase.—Betty Porter, Assistant Director for Education Services, Xavier University Library, Cincinnati, Ohio

Encyclopedia of the Developing World. Ed. by Thomas M. Leonard. New York: Routledge, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$565 (ISBN 1-57958-388-1).

Editor Thomas Leonard, a professor of history at the University of North Florida, previously edited *The Encyclopedia of Cuban-United States Relations* (McFarland, 2004) and authored *Fidel Castro: A Biography* (Greenwood, 2004). Now he has gathered more than 250 contributors from institutions around the world to put together this three-volume reference set concentrating on the post-1945 period. The beginning of each volume contains an alphabetical list of entries, a thematic list of entries (the themes are Countries and Regions, Organizations, Persons, and Topics) and an introduction. Neither of the lists gives corresponding page numbers for the entries so the user must browse through the volumes or use the extensive index to find the entries.

The introduction states that the encyclopedia "provides a ready reference work for understanding the issues that affect approximately three quarters of the globe's residents" (xxxvi). The set covers developing countries, which, as stated in the in-

troduction, is widely assumed to be all countries except for the G-7 (United States, Japan, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Canada) and Australia and New Zealand. Those countries are not covered as separate entries in the encyclopedia but are included in the index as they are referenced in other sections.

The alphabetically arranged articles range in length from several paragraphs to several pages. All articles are signed and have bibliographies that vary widely in length and currency. Most entries have "see also" references.

Most of the country-specific entries only give brief histories. More thorough country treatment can be found in sources such as *Europa World Year Book* (Europa Pub., annual), *Worldmark Encyclopedia of National Economies* (Gale Group/Thomson Learning, 2002), or the Country Studies series from the Library of Congress (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>). There are "see also" references for countries. So, for example, a reader will be referred from the entry on Yemen to the sections, "Middle East: History and Economic Development" and "Middle East: International Relations" for more information about Yemen.

A strength of this source is the extensive number of organizations listed. The organizations range from the well known, such as the World Bank and UNICEF, to the less familiar, such as the Visegrad Group and the Awami League. Information given in the entries usually includes the history and mission of the organization, the members, the work done, and plans for the future if the organization is still active.

Lengthier coverage than what is provided for the individual countries is given to regions such as the Southern Cone (Latin America), Oceania, Central Asia, and North Africa. There are many individuals profiled, such as Ni John Fru Ndi (chairman of Cameroon's Social Democratic Front), Juan Bosch (Dominican writer and politician), and Franjo Tudjman (the father of Croatia). The bulk of the topics address wide themes such as deforestation, HIV and AIDS, Kurds, socialist economic model, and water resources and distribution.

Libraries may have some outdated resources on the developing world such as *Encyclopedia of the Third World* (Facts On File, 1992) and the *Dictionary of Development: Third World Economy* (Garland, 1990). Although the topics in *Encyclopedia of the Developing World* can be researched in a number of other sources, the editor does a nice job of bringing all the current information together in these volumes. *Encyclopedia of the Developing World* would be a worthwhile addition for any library.—Stacey Marien, Business and Economics Librarian, American University, Washington, D.C.

Encyclopedia of the Documentary Film. Ed. by Ian Aitken. New York: Routledge, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$465 (ISBN 1-57958-445-4).

Although the documentary is one of the earliest film genres, only now has it been treated by a reference source of this magnitude. Routledge is promoting its set as "the first comprehensive reference work of documentary film," and although completed before the huge commercial successes of Morgan Spurlock's *Super Size Me* and Luc Jacquet's *March*

of the Penguins, these omissions only underscore that a work such as this is long overdue.

As documentary filmmaking has emerged from nearly every country in the world, it is essential that coverage be international in scope. More than thirty countries and regions are represented in entries written primarily by university-affiliated scholars from across the globe. More than seven hundred entries ranging in length from five hundred to several thousand words are enhanced by approximately two hundred photographs. Perhaps one minor complaint is that because this is a work dealing with a visual medium, the corresponding illustrations are fewer than might be expected.

In addition to entries on individual films, directors, and producers, other entries include countries and regions, styles and techniques, themes and issues, and general topics and concepts. Entries for individuals are followed by a short biography, selective filmography, and recommended titles for further reading. Each of the three volumes contains an alphabetical and a thematic list of entries, editor's introduction, and comprehensive index.

Winner of the ALA/RUSA Dartmouth medal for one of this year's most outstanding reference works, this much-anticipated resource will be welcome in academic libraries, film-studies collections, and larger public libraries.—Robin Imhof, *Reference Librarian, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California*

Encyclopedia of the New American Nation: The Emergence of the United States, 1754–1829. Ed. by Paul Finkelman. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$395 (ISBN 0-684-31346-4).

Editor Paul Finkelman, professor at the College of Law at the University of Tulsa, and the four-hundred-plus individuals who contributed to this three-volume work have produced a wonderful reference resource. Consisting of 667 articles of various lengths, *Encyclopedia of the New American Nation* provides a wealth of information about America, dating from 1754, when Americans felt a sense of their potential for self-governance following the French and Indian Wars, to 1829, when a new generation, symbolized by Andrew Jackson, was taking over from the founding fathers.

The *Encyclopedia* completes a larger project. It is the last of a series of four encyclopedias from publisher Thomson Gale that present a detailed understanding of American history from the time of European exploration of the New World to the start of the twenty-first century.

These volumes are organized like many of their kind: table of contents, introductory matter, entries, a list of contributors, and an index. Also present are a chronology of the period covered, which spotlights significant events from each year, and a synoptic outline, or list of twenty-two topics that shed light on the organizing principles behind the encyclopedia: "Foreign Relations," "Arts and Letters," "Daily Life," "Gender and Sexuality," and "War and the Military" are but a few. In addition to expected entries, such as those for the American Revolution, Benjamin Franklin, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Battle of Bunker Hill, there are entries on

"Furniture," "Material Culture," "Weights and Measures," and "Holidays and Public Celebrations." By including them, the editor places his encyclopedia in a category apart from others that merely cover politics, economics, biographies, and other traditional topics of the same time period.

Though the encyclopedia is excellent, there are a few things about which to quibble. A general bibliography would have been useful. This is not to say that the volumes are devoid of bibliographic sources since many are listed following every entry; however, a listing of books and articles or a bibliographical essay on the general time period would have been useful. In compiling any encyclopedia, editorial decisions are made that lead to omitting some topics in favor of others. Why, for example, is there an entry for Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, but not Morristown, New Jersey, where General Washington's troops were also headquartered? Why is there an entry for the Hudson River, but not the Delaware River? Why are the writings of Edward Deming Andrews, the pioneer scholar of the Shaker religious sect, omitted from the bibliography on the Shakers? In the table of contents in volume one, a heading reading "Volume 1" leads users to believe that everything that follows is in that volume. Such is not the case. Whoever designed the table of contents did not include "Volume 2" and "Volume 3" as headings.

These shortcomings aside, in deciding whether or not to acquire the encyclopedia, collection-development librarians will check their holdings to see what they already have under the headings United States—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600–1775—Encyclopedias; United States—History—Revolution, 1775–1783—Encyclopedias; and United States—History—1783–1865—Encyclopedias. Large university libraries undoubtedly have quite a bit, while smaller libraries probably have fewer titles. Even if materials are present, it would be advisable to acquire these volumes because many of their entries are not included among the books already on the shelf.—E. Richard McKinstry, *Andrew W. Mellon Senior Librarian, Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware*

Encyclopedia of War and American Society. Ed. by Peter Karsten. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$395 (ISBN 0-7619-3097-3).

The introduction to the *Encyclopedia of War and American Society* outlines a theoretical approach to its subject. The theory is that each event, person, or trend that reflects a relationship between war and American society can be defined as a "direct effect of war, having an interactive relationship with war, or [as] an unintended result of war" (2). As a result of this framework, the individual entries in the set are cohesive, rather than being simply a collection of pieces. As stated by the editor, the articles range from general to specific, meaning one can find an article discussing the concept of memory as it pertains to all American wars as well as a detailed description of the film *Saving Private Ryan*. Every official war in which Americans participated, from the Revolutionary War to the war on terrorism, is addressed.