

# Selected Reference Books of 1997-98

Eileen McIlvaine



This article follows the pattern set by the semiannual series initiated by the late Constance M. Winchell more than fifty years ago and continued by Eugene Sheehy. Because the purpose of the list is to present a selection of recent scholarly and general 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 AJ51) have been used to refer to titles in the *Guide to Reference Books*, 11th ed. (Chicago: ALA, 1996).

## Religion and Mythology

**Mohrer, Fruma, and Marek Web.** *Guide to the YIVO Archives*. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 1998. 400p. \$125 (ISBN 0-7656-0130-3). LC 97-34858.

An essential addition to any serious Jewish studies or East European reference collection is this useful guide to the valuable archival holdings of one of the world's leading collections of resources for Jewish history and one of this country's most important repositories of material relating to the history of Eastern Europe in general.

The history of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and its collections is a complex and dramatic one. Founded in 1925 in Vilna (Polish Wilno, Lithuania Vilnius) by a group of scholars led by the

linguist Max Weinreich as a teaching and research center for Jewish scholarship, particularly in the Yiddishist tradition, as well as a library and archives to support these activities, it quickly grew and prospered in the prewar period, developing a vast, but only partially cataloged, collection of unique material documenting Jewish history, society, and culture in East and Central Europe and mounting an ambitious program of study and teaching. The outbreak of the war brought disaster, however, particularly after the German invasion of the Soviet Union, when the institute was closed. Many of its reserachers and staff perished in the Holocaust and its collections were broken up or destroyed. A small group of YIVO members who had managed to escape to the West reestablished the institute in New York, basing themselves on the American branch office established in 1926 and already assembling a modest collection of its own. Miraculously, at war's end, significant parts of the older collections were recovered from storage in Frankfurt where looted material had been transported from caches hidden by institute staff, or (at least in the form of copies) from various other sites that had been dispersed in Lithuania. In addition, in the years since the war, YIVO has amassed important new collections documenting more recent years and more specifically American Jewish issues, as well

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as the earlier periods that had traditionally been the institute's area of interest.

The result is a large, complex collection comprising the papers of such important Jewish institutions as the American Jewish Committee, Joint Distribution Committee, Jewish Labor Bund, the manuscripts and correspondence of Yiddish writers and actors, documents of Jewish communities in East and Central Europe, Holocaust testimonies, and rich holdings of photographs and other visual materials. The sources reflect not only the length and breadth of European and American Jewish history and cultures but also many important sources for the study of Eastern Europe, in general, and Poland and Lithuania, in particular. Information on many of these holdings has been accessible through the RLIN database, but given the complexity of this collection, the appearance of a general overview of the collections in a single volume is a welcome event.

As the authors, the institute's archivist and associate archivist, indicate, the descriptions here are necessarily brief, but they provide a comprehensive and systematic overview. Collections are listed in alphabetical order with an indication of dates and scope of coverage, size of the holdings, and availability of finding aids. A detailed subject index provides additional access to the contents. Preceding the descriptions is a survey of YIVO's history and the development of its collections, as well as useful information on access to the institute.

Appearing as it does shortly before the opening of new and expanded facilities later this year, this guide should contribute significantly to researchers' use of this scholarly treasure.—R.H.S.

*The Oxford Dictionary of World Religions.*  
Ed. John Bowker. Oxford, New York:  
Oxford Univ. Pr., 1997. xxiv, 1111p. \$45  
(ISBN 0-19-213965-7). LC 97-166787.

The *Dictionary* was born out of the editor's teaching experience in an introductory course on religions at Lancaster Univer-

sity. It aims "to provide initial bearings on new and unfamiliar ground, not just for students, but for the general reader as well" (*Pref.*). One half of the book was written by the editor and the rest by contributors from American, British, and Australian universities and seminaries.

Short and mid-length unsigned articles cover concepts, people, sects, works, deities, and so on; some have a bibliographic reference to one or two titles. As the editor states in the preface, the coverage of religious art and music was much curtailed. Fewer than four pages are devoted to art and barely three pages to the music of all the religions of the world. The book contains no illustrations.

The *Dictionary* could best be used as a supplement or introduction to a college survey course. Although the topic index (pp. 1075-1102) groups terms under general keywords such as heavens, hell, healing, mysticism, religions leaders, and women, it does not provide a cohesive survey of a particular religion. Sometimes there are too many secondary concepts included so that it is hard to grasp the major tenets of a sect.

This is not a historical dictionary of religions, although it contains a number of references to historical figures and events. It is a pity that the "dead" religions of Greece and Rome are not included because their comparative studies would have helped in understanding Shinto practices, for example, which the book has given considerable coverage.—J.S.

**Sienkewicz, Thomas J.** *Theories of Myth: An Annotated Bibliography.* Magill Bibliography Series. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow/Salem Pr., 1997. 227p. \$32.00 (ISBN 0-8108-3388-3). LC 97-25078.

Intended as a companion volume to Sienkewicz's bibliography of world mythology (*World Mythology*, Scarecrow, 1996. 469p.), *Theories of Myth* is devoted to citations for the analysis and interpretation of myths from around the world. As in his previous work, only English-

language resources are cited, and *myth* is defined broadly to include classical mythology as well as traditional stories, legends, tales, and sagas. Included here is "material dealing with the interpretation of traditional myths and legends about gods, heroes, and the origin of the universe" (*Introd.*). The material indexed includes individual texts plus specific chapters, articles, and essays in books. When a journal article has been reprinted in a collection or anthology, the compiler gives both references.

Beginning in the early chapters with general surveys of myth theory and definitions of myth, Sienkewicz, professor of classics at Monmouth College (Illinois), organizes the remaining chapters by specific approach—that is, comparative mythology, myth and anthropology, myth and psychology, myth and religion, and the structural study of myth. The scope of this volume does not allow citations for modern reinterpretations or adaptations of myths in nineteenth- or twentieth-century literature.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by author within each chapter. The paragraph-length annotations following each citation are well written and informative, and help to illuminate the distinctive features of each cited work. Author, editor, and subject indexes are all useful access points and allow one to find all references to myths of a particular origin.

Although not as comprehensive as bibliographies of specific approaches to myth such as *Man, Myth & Magic: The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Mythology, Religion, and the Unknown* (1983. BC64) or Kiell's *Psychoanalysis, Psychology, and Literature: A Bibliography* (1982–1990. BE19), this volume nevertheless fills a need by providing citations in one place for various interdisciplinary theoretical approaches and patterns of myth interpretation. With its global scope and emphasis on broad overviews, this general bibliography is a recommended source for undergraduates and others new to the study of myth theory.—A.M.

## Literature

*Encyclopedia of Latin American Literature.*

Ed. Verity Smith. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997. 926p. \$125 (ISBN 1-88496-418-4). LC 97-128039.

This is an excellent, comprehensive, one-volume encyclopedia with entries on writers, works, topics, and survey articles on all the continent's individual countries. It is obvious that great care went into the selection of entries and topics: "the editor has had to bear in mind what has already been done, with a view to filling perceived gaps, noting new trends while avoiding fashionable ephemera, incorporating new areas of academic interest and reviving an interest in older ones . . . this encyclopedia participates in the task of re-igniting an interest in the literature of the continent's past and also stimulating interest in that of some of the smaller countries of the region such as Ecuador and Bolivia" (*Ed. Note*).

Entries for writers include a signed critical overview; a brief biographical sketch; a selected list of primary works in chronological order broken down by genre, when appropriate; an annotated list for further reading; and, in many cases, additional entries about individual literary works, with citations to translations and further bibliographies. These essays on individual works will make this an extremely valuable encyclopedia. Topical essays cover a wide variety of material, from entries on African American literature, African Brazilian literature, and African Caribbean literature through the Boom, the Postboom, journals, romanticism, theater, and women's writing. Country surveys address each of the Latin American countries. Francophone countries are treated collectively in essays on the French West Indies and in essays including negritude. Authors writing also in English are treated in essays on Hispanic minorities in the United States, but the focus is primarily on Spanish-language literature, with additional essays on Mayan, Nahuatl, and other indigenous literature.

The *Encyclopedia of Latin American Literature* is highly recommended for libraries of all sizes. It is an excellent first place to check for a variety of topics, from protest literature to an individual author.—S.S.W.

**Kemp, Sandra.** *Edwardian Fiction: An Oxford Companion*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1997. 431p. \$39.95 (ISBN 0-19-811760-4). LC 96-037878.

Edwardian fiction is a somewhat vague term, often used as a catch-all phrase for anything not Victorian and not modern. The editors recognize this problem and have defined the period by including authors who published any works between 1900 and 1914, deciding that "this is a period of enormous interest and almost unprecedented literary activity" (*Introd.*). Thus, both G. A. Henty (died 1903) and his gung-ho children's books of Victorian high imperialism, and James Joyce, with his *Dubliners* (published in 1914), are considered Edwardian authors.

There are brief entries for some 800 authors and 250 of their works. The authors are all from England or Ireland, with a few important Canadian and Australian writers; no purely American writers are included, although Henry James, as an honorary and later legal Englishman, is. His eventual English citizenship is not mentioned in his entry; and, in fact, this work would not be a first source for biographical sketches of major authors. However, the entries for the more obscure authors make this work invaluable.

The work also includes twenty thematic essays on major trends and issues of the period, from the Boer War to suburban fiction, which point out the literary and social variety of the period. The growth of the suburbs, the New Woman, the continued labor unrest, and the fear of German aggression all turned up in fiction, and these essays and the plot summaries provide a fascinating glimpse of the period.

However, there are some factual errors (George Gissing did know his first wife

before he went to America) and some sloppy proofreading. Maybe reading too many children's stories led to the phrase "mosts of the stories" in the entry on the *Just So Stories*; Bulwer-Lytton can be heavy going, but Benjamin Fargeon probably did not become "aged after reading the *Caxtons*." Nevertheless, this guide will be extremely useful in any library supporting English literature. Moreover, it should increase interlibrary loan traffic. I, for one, want to find out more about Joan Sutherland, who specialized "in frontier tales featuring cool, brusque Englishmen with impossible names whose qualities of leadership fail them in the boudoir" (p. 380).—M.C.

### Architecture

*Avery's Choice: Five Centuries of Great Architectural Books: One Hundred Years of an Architectural Library, 1890-1990*. Ed. Adolf K. Placzek. New York: G. K. Hall, 1997. xxvii, 292p. \$185 (ISBN 0-7838-1597-2). LC 97-3066.

To celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Avery Architectural Library at Columbia University, scholars have compiled a bibliography of 427 books considered the most important in the fields of architecture and the decorative arts and published over the last 500 years, 1485-1985. A book qualified for inclusion if it met any of the following criteria: "firstness," profound influence, sheer beauty, "originality combined with a certain modernity . . . [i.e., the work] articulates or anticipates ideas which are about to arrive . . . ahead of its time" (*Introd.*).

The book is handsome with excellent illustrations and is heavily annotated (in many cases, short essays that describe the importance of the author as well as the content of the book). The entries are signed, and the work is under the general editorship of Adolf Placzek, librarian emeritus of Avery.

The focus is on European and American literature "which arose in Italy in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, spread, and transformed it-

self through all the varieties of stylistic, ideological and national upheavals until this literature became in the end an international language for a global architectural theory, practice and technology." The arrangement is by broad periods, with each period introduced by essays that are themselves very useful summaries of the history of the development of architectural thought. The annotated lists follow according to date of publication. The earliest entries are Alberti's *De re aedificatoria* (Florence 1485) and Vitruvius's *De architectura* (Rome 1486), and the latest is Venturi's *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* (New York 1966). Along the way, we find the expected Piranesi, Inigo Jones, Otto Wagner, Gropius, and Vincent Scully, and then are surprised by a Charles Perrault festival book (Paris 1670) or the first translation into English of Alberti (London 1726).

The volume is indexed for author, title, and date of publication, although one could have wished for a topical or geographical index so that all the works coming from a particular country could be found. However, this is a worthy tribute to a great library; art historians as well as social and intellectual historians will find much of interest in this work.—E.M.

*Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World*. Ed. Paul Oliver. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1997. 3 vols. 2384p. \$900 (ISBN 0-521-56422-0). LC 97-6060.

If there were a "Book of Revelation" on the architecture reference shelf, this may well be it. Ten years of research by 760 contributors from 80 countries have resulted in a resource unique in both concept and content. This first-ever encyclopedia of nonformal, nonmonumental architecture still in existence and use in the twentieth century covers in three volumes that which has been neglected in all the standard encyclopedias of architecture to date: a comprehensive survey

and analysis of those self-built and community-built, secular and sacred structures—mostly dwellings—that express "the common speech of building" (p. 21) throughout the world.

The arrangement of the encyclopedia is neither an alphabetical list of entries nor a national frame of reference. Volume 1 presents "Theories and Principles of Organization," and it is here that the subject reveals itself in its overwhelming variety. "Approaches and Concepts" encompasses twenty different facets of the study of vernacular architecture: aesthetic, anthropological, archeological, architectural, behavioral, cognitive, conservationist, ethnographical, evolutionary, historical, museological, spatial, to name just half. "Cultures, Traits, and Attributes" considers domestic routine, family types, food, gender roles, languages, nomadism, play, politics, rites and ceremonies, symbolism, Westernization, among a number of others. "Environment" is as varied as the earth's geography upon which the structures are built and people live and work; each climate, geographic feature (and the typical forms of natural disasters), level of population density, etc., are categorized.

Other major sections are devoted to materials and building resources (more than ninety, including recycled beer cans); production (assembly by process and building component, including some furniture); services (activities such as cooking, heating and ventilation, sanitation, water supply); symbolism and decoration (six detailed studies); typologies (more than thirty forms); uses and functions (two hundred examples within eight primary activities, such as authority and status buildings, economic, religious, funerary, agricultural, technical, social, and portable or temporary buildings).

These and the cultural-geographical entries in volumes 2 and 3 are classified in a numerical "triple-sequence system" that moves from larger subjects to smaller in an attempt to comprehend changing

political boundaries, cultural practices, and building materials and techniques over several millennia. Maps on the end papers of each volume demonstrate where the scheme is applied for easy reference as the areas are treated more in continental and regional groupings than by country. There are good black-and-white photographs and line drawings (plans, sections, cutaway axonometric views, etc.) on nearly every page, and the graphical presentation of the entire set is extremely attractive: gray and black FF Quadraat 9/12 type on coated white paper with wide inner margins, well bound. Volume 2 includes a seventeen-page glossary, a comparative foreign-language Lexicon for more than three hundred architectural terms in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic; a bibliography arranged to complement the table of contents organization of each of the volumes, and indexes: cultures, habitats, nations, locations, and a concluding general index.

The work is timely; it probably has been produced at very nearly the last opportunity, the end of this century, to capture and record traditions that are becoming extinct. In the third world, especially, where populations are exploding and migrating to cities of incomprehensible size, massive urbanization is creating a world of squatter settlements and non-descript housing for millions of people without regard to the indigenous-built environments from which they come. This survey makes a vital contribution to architectural and ethnographic studies that will keep researchers—and, it is hoped, builders—busy well into the next century.—B.S.A.

## Dance

*International Encyclopedia of Dance*. Ed. Selma Jeanne Cohen. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1998. 6 vols. \$1,250 (ISBN 0-19-509462-X). LC 97-036562.

After many years (work on the *Encyclopedia* began in 1976) and the failure of sev-

eral publication plans, Oxford University Press has finally published this long-awaited work. It was a heroic effort on the part of its editors, and the foreword explains some of its complicated history.

Despite some very useful dictionaries, the editors felt that "thoughtful, analytical discussions were lacking," and they wanted to provide a source that would offer "extensive historical surveys of the evolution of all kinds of dance in countries throughout the world" (*Pref.*)—ritual, social, and theatrical. The emphasis nevertheless is on theater rather than anthropology, although folk and religious dance are certainly well covered.

More than 500 writers contributed articles, all of which are signed. The articles range from country surveys to detailed descriptions of specific steps. There are brief bibliographies at the end of each article; despite the time involved in publishing the *Encyclopedia*, many references are to quite recent publications. The articles are arranged alphabetically with extensive cross-references, and there is an extremely detailed index.

Dance is a visual form, and although the *Encyclopedia* is generously illustrated throughout, unfortunately the photographs are small and poorly reproduced. This does not, of course, detract from the scholarship of the articles, but it does diminish the pleasure in reading them.

Inevitably, this work will be compared to the much-less-expensive *International Dictionary of Ballet* (1993. BH142), which has beautifully reproduced, if poorly documented, illustrations. Individual ballet dancers are covered in more detail in the latter work (which has, for example, detailed lists of roles danced). But for scholarly overviews of the topic and, of course, for anything outside the ballet, the *Encyclopedia* is the much better choice. Any library with an interest in the humanities, popular culture, or anthropology will want to start saving up to buy this monumental work.—M.C.

### Film and Television

*Encyclopedia of Television*. Ed. Horace Newcomb. Sponsored by the Museum of Broadcast Communication, Chicago. Chicago, London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997. 3 vols. xxxv, 1948p. \$300 (ISBN 1-88496-426-5). LC 97-214692.

Over three years in the making, the *Encyclopedia of Television* covers some one thousand topics relating to "television programs, people and topics drawn from the United States, Britain, Canada and Australia" and "the history and current status of television in a number of other countries" (*Pref.*). A large number of entries are biographies of actors, producers, filmmakers, writers, journalists, and media executives. Because biographical entries emphasize professional accomplishments on television, they tend to overlap with entries on programs. Equally numerous are articles on notable programs of all genres, along with an article surveying each type of program. There also are articles on business and the social aspects of television such as advertising, audience research, rating, cable network, children, Vietnam and television, and violence, to name a few. Less emphasized are the technical aspects of television, although the *Encyclopedia* does cover topics such as color television, camcorder, and high-definition television.

Virtually every article is accompanied by a bibliography for further reading. A biographical entry includes a portrait, and an article on a program is illustrated with clips from the show. There are publications that cover some of the areas (for example, programs) more thoroughly than this one, but libraries will find this comprehensive encyclopedia a useful addition.—J.S.

*Canadian Film and Video: A Bibliography and Guide to the Literature/ Film et vidéo canadiens: Bibliographie analytique sur le cinéma et la vidéo*. Ed. Loren Lerner. Toronto: Univ. Toronto Pr., 1997. 2 vols. xli, 1811p. \$275 (ISBN 0-8020-2988-4). LC 97-201017.

*Canadian Film and Video* is an extensive work intended to assist in the advancement of Canadian film history and to promote the study of Canadian film by providing access to the English and French literature on film and video in Canada during the twentieth century to 1989. With an impressive 24,800 entries, the two-volume, bilingual work covers the many aspects of film in Canada as it relates to feature, documentary, educational and industrial films, and video.

Nearly half the entries are annotated, although primarily film reviews and newspaper articles are not. Abstracts are descriptive and detailed, and are entered in either English or French or both, when appropriate. Works cited include both Canadian and foreign popular and scholarly publications, books, newspapers, catalogs, government reports, theses, and newsletters.

The process of compiling information for this work began with identifying relevant articles and reviews in a wide variety of periodical indexes such as *Canadian Periodical Index*, *Film Literature Index*, *International Index to Film Periodicals*, *Art Bibliographies Modern*, *Sociofile*, and *America: History and Life*. As a result, 325 relevant periodicals and newspapers were identified, collected, and reviewed for subsequent articles with abstracts provided, if needed. More than a hundred, mostly Canadian periodicals, also were searched issue by issue. For books, bibliographic searching included scanning the shelves of major library collections. The result is a comprehensive index of Canadian literature including important journal publications such as *Cinema Canada*, a journal that documents Canadian trends in film theory, film and industry, and film and government.

The first volume is a sweeping bibliography well organized into broad topical subject sections that are further divided into narrower subject and geographic areas. Within each subject, entries

are arranged chronologically. Topics range from general studies (publications that document the history and development of film in Canada, Quebec, and British Columbia); genres (works on documentary, industrial, experimental, animated films, and video); film and government (more than two thousand citations); festivals and awards (general entries arranged chronologically, followed by entries arranged alphabetically by title of festival or award); industry, production distribution, and exhibition companies; film and video associations and organizations; and related studies with sections on cinema and theatres, film and literature, film and society, among others.

The section on film and government is invaluable; citations are provided from a wide range of materials including periodicals, government publications, reports, studies, and newsletters. In particular, significant reports and studies are provided on the National Film Board of Canada, a public agency that for almost sixty years has produced and distributed films and audiovisual works in Canada.

The second volume contains sections of persons involved in film, including filmmakers and video artists, cinematographers, editors, producers, composers, scriptwriters, and actors. Also contained in this volume is an appendix with a chronology of the Canadian film industry and detailed indexes by author, film and video title, and subject that are essential for locating specific articles.

This is an exhaustive work that, as intended, provides a solid beginning for research on Canadian film and is highly recommended for research collections and colleges and universities offering programs in film studies.—N.E.F.

### Women's Studies

*Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*. Eds. Paula E. Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore. Sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society. New York: Routledge, 1997. 2 vols.

1770p. \$250 (ISBN 0-415-91936-3). LC 97-26842.

Two questions immediately come to mind when examining this sort of reference work: what are the parameters of inclusion, and when would one turn to this work for information? *Jewish* is defined as those who considered themselves Jewish, or had Jewish fathers or mothers, or who were converts. Living women are included whose age is 60 or above unless they are in national politics. America means the United States and includes immigrants. The *Encyclopedia* focuses on women, their biographies, organizations, movements, issues, journals, roles, etc., in order to "provide a usable past for American Jewish women . . . to recover their rich history . . . and to make visible their diverse accomplishments" (*Ed. Pref.*).

Thus, we find eighty biographical entries, Lina Arabanell (1879-1963) to Miriam Shomer Zinser (1882-1951), with articles along the way for 110 topics, including advertising and consumer culture, assimilation of nineteenth-century Jewish women (and another for the twentieth century), National Council of Jewish Women, and journals such as *American Jewess* and *Bridges*. The articles are well written, many illustrated, and signed, with short bibliographies. The article on Bella Abzug, written by Professor Blanche Wiesen Cook, for example, is about five pages long, with three photographs and a listing of four bibliographic citations, although there is no mention of the location of her papers. There is an entry for Dina Abramowicz, librarian at YIVO Institute with a photograph.

The set concludes with some very helpful sections: a list of contributors with a paragraph on each; a classified list of biographical entries, activists to Zionists and including Nobel Prize winners; and an "Annotated Bibliography and Guide to Archival Resources on the History of Jewish Women in America" by Phyllis Holman Weisbard (pp. 1553-86) that "concentrates on books, chapters in an-



ologies, and periodical articles on the collective history of American Jewish women as well as archival resources on individuals and women's organizations" (p. 1553). The index is full with cross- and see-also references.

Altogether, this is a major reference tool.—E.M.

*Women in Context: Two Hundred Years of British Women Autobiographies: A Reference Guide and Reader.* Ed. Barbara Penny Kanner. New York: G. K. Hall, 1997. 1052p. \$60 (ISBN 0-8161-7346-X). LC 96-29645.

This bibliography treats the published autobiographies of 812 British women writing between 1750 and 1950, with generous annotations and indexing. Entries are arranged alphabetically by author, with a citation to the published work followed by a citation from either NUC or the British Library Catalogue for interlibrary loan verification, followed by a three-paragraph annotation. The first paragraph provides biographical information: place of birth, names of parents and significant friends and family members, marital status, occupations, and class. The next paragraph summarizes the autobiography. This section is fairly long—often more than a page—and aims "to preserve the author's experiences and opinions in the terms she uses, and to avoid either inserting our own interpretations of her meanings and motivations or placing matters important to late twentieth-century studies over her own concerns. In this section of each entry we have attempted to make the author's mental makeup transparent to our readers" (*How to Use This Book*). The final paragraph places the work into a larger sociohistorical context and sometimes includes citations to other autobiographical and biographical works concerning the author.

There are three indexes to the autobiographies. The author index groups the authors into twenty-year cohorts by date

of birth; the majority were born in the nineteenth century, 69 were born before 1800, and another 135 were born in the twentieth century. The identification index lists vocations, activities, marital status, religious and ethical belief systems, and social class. The subject index lists topics addressed in the autobiographies and appears to be quite thorough, although, unfortunately, it is an index only to entry numbers so the subject, "Cultural Differences: Anglo and Non Western," is followed by rows of 197 different numbers. One also wishes that they had made the generic non-Western more geographically specific. The treatment of geographical areas is the only true weakness of this index. There are virtually no entries by country, and these appear only as sub-headings (e.g., British Empire: India or Foreign Customs: India). Many topics (e.g., education, abroad) list hundreds of entries with no further geographical subdivision. But this is still the best bibliography of its kind, providing access never available before to autobiographies of a wide variety of British women. There is considerable overlap with Kanner's *Women in English Social History 1800-1914*, vol.3, *Autobiographical Writings* (CC607), but not enough to supersede it.—S.S.W.

### Political Science

**McCarthy, Ronald M., and Gene Sharp.**

*Nonviolent Action: A Research Guide.*

Garland Reference Library of Social Science, 940. New York: Garland, 1997. xxxvi, 720p. \$99 (ISBN 0-8153-1577-5). LC 97-25316.

This research guide, the lifelong work of Gene Sharp, one of its editors, brings together a wide range of information sources on the worldwide experience, both historical and contemporary, of using nonviolent action. The guide, in essence an extensive annotated bibliography, is divided into two parts: (1) "Cases of Nonviolent Struggle," and (2) "Studies of Nonviolent Action and Related Fields." The case studies are arranged first

by geographical region, then alphabetically by country. The citations draw not only on the scholarly literature of academic disciplines such as history, sociology, and political science but also include journalistic accounts, personal testimonies, policy statements, and official reports. Individual country entries, when the material warrants, are further subdivided by topic.

The second part of the book compiles references on the nature of nonviolent action itself, the various concepts and methods brought to bear on it, and on related theories and research models that contribute to an understanding of its workings.

A detailed table of contents, cross-references in the text, section introductions, and an extensive subject index as well as an author index help the researcher to navigate through the vast amount of material assembled and to select entries of greatest interest.

*Nonviolent Action: A Research Guide* is serious work of vast scope and meticulous research, an invaluable addition to any academic library's reference collection.—O.d.C.

## History

*Modern British History: A Guide to Study and Research.* Eds. L. J. Butler and Anthony Gorst. London: Tauris, 1997 (distributed in the United States by St. Martin's Pr., New York). 310p. \$55 (ISBN 1-8604-103-2). LC 97-178046.

*Oxford Companion to British History.* Ed. John Cannon. Oxford, New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1998. 1044p. maps. \$60 (ISBN 0-19-866176-2). LC 97-27598.

*Modern British History* is an extremely useful guide that addresses research methods as well as the current state of research in twentieth-century British history. Thus, chapters cover the most effective way to use libraries and archives, public records, computing techniques, and the Internet, with a section on how to cite electronic materials. The chapters that follow focus

on specific fields within modern British history such as gender history, social history, or diplomatic history discussing the "current scope and methodological problems of each field" (*Pref.*).

The chapters are written by scholars, and many provide a short bibliography for further reading. The essays are very informative, but also well written by academics in the United Kingdom. For anyone new to archival research or to the use of electronic materials or looking for a state-of-the-art account of twentieth-century British history, this is a must-buy.

From one one-volume *Dictionary of British History* by S.H. Steinberg (DC293), the world of British history has been enriched by a number of them (see the review of new dictionaries of British history in *C&RL*, Sept. 1996, pp. 471-72). The most recent entrant is the *Oxford Companion to British History*, edited by John Cannon. From Abbayes and Priors to Zutphen, Battle of, the work covers all periods and topics in signed articles, a few with bibliographies. "Considerable space is devoted to 'local history' with a general article on the subject and shorter entries on all the English and Welsh counties, Scottish provinces, ancient kingdoms, modern regions, on the most important towns, together with entries on a number of castles, cathedrals and country houses" (*Pref.*). To aid readers, there are maps, genealogies, and asterisked words in entries as a form of cross-reference. The subject index is a bit problematic in that it is a list of broad subjects (e.g., class and rank or economics), with a list of related articles following, but this is more than one usually gets in an *Oxford Companion*.

Comparing the Oxford with the *History Today Companion to British History* (London: Collins & Brown, 1995) and Bamber Gascoigne's *Encyclopedia of Britain* (1993. DC292), one discovers some surprising gaps. For example, the Profumo Affair is treated in both earlier

volumes, but not mentioned in the *Oxford*. Even looking under "Macmillan," there is no mention, although the text leads one to believe Macmillan himself was involved. There are no cross-references in the *Oxford* to Glyndwr from Glendower, nor from Boleyn to Anne. Glyndebourne is not described by the *Oxford*, but by the other two. Of course, the *Oxford* is more current, I can find Tony Blair. So I think the *Oxford* would be my third choice for an identification, a fact check, a description of the significance of a person, place, or event, but possibly a first choice for local history and survey articles, although the *History Today* volume has some very useful ones, too.—E.M.

### New Editions and Supplements

The *Cambridge Encyclopedia* by David Crystal (3d ed. Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1997. 1303p. \$54.95; 2d ed. 1994, 1st ed. 1990. AB3) is much updated for coverage of the past five years for newsworthy events, film personalities, and sports. Also updated to 1996–1997 is the political leaders portion of the ready reference section (pp. 1175–1303). There is some overlap in this part of the *Encyclopedia* with the *Cambridge Factfinder*, also by David Crystal (2d ed. New York: Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1997. 891p. \$16.95; 1st ed. 1993). Flags of the nations are reproduced on the end papers of the *Encyclopedia*.

The sixth edition of the *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*, edited by Melanie Parry (Edinburgh: Chambers, 1997. 2008p. \$55) has now reverted back to its old name. The fifth edition (1990. 1604p. AH24) was entitled *Cambridge Biographical Dictionary* and was published by the Cambridge University Press, as well as by Chambers. The new edition has, of course, added names, updated coverage, and also has a new format to try to make the elements of an entry clearer.

Oxford has revised a number of its language dictionaries. The *Oxford Dictionary of New Words*, edited by Elizabeth

Knowles and Julia Elliott (New Ed. Oxford, New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1997. 357p. \$25; 1st ed. 1991. AC96) has added "2,000 high-profile words and phrases which have come to public attention in the last 15 or 16 years" (*Pref.*). Thus, we find in the first edition entries such as new wave, pac man, skateboarding, and Sloane Ranger, which in the second edition have been replaced by entries such as ADD, bad hair day, java, joe-sixpack, and Megan's law.

The *Oxford Thesaurus* by Laurence Urdang (2d ed. Oxford: Clarendon Pr., 1997. 1078p. \$19.95; 1st ed, 1991. AC146) is about one inch taller than the first edition, but the word list is little changed except for the addition of antonyms. The *Oxford Desk Thesaurus: American Edition* (1995. 660p. \$12.95) also uses the same wordlist with the occasional addition (e.g., Yahoo) but lacks the index of the larger work and, of course, includes no antonyms. The first edition, 1991, of the American edition thesaurus also has been merged into *The Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus: American Edition* (1996. 1829p. \$30; also called *Reader's Digest Oxford Complete Wordfinder*) edited by Frank Abate. The arrangement is alphabetical by headword, with the synonym section within the entry set off by a small black box.

Bloomsbury also has published a new edition of its thesaurus. The *Bloomsbury Thesaurus*, edited by Fran Alexander (London: Bloomsbury, 1997. 1201p.; 1st ed. 1993), is arranged by category with a word index giving a brief definition and the category. The revision "incorporates recent changes in the language . . . but also the most current general terms" (*Introd.*) of the 1990s. Here, one can find "bad hair day" with its synonyms.

The new edition of the *Dictionary of Contemporary Slang*, compiled by Tony Thorne (London: Bloomsbury, 1997. 440p. \$17; 1st ed. 1990, under the title *Bloomsbury Dictionary of Modern Slang*) has been much revised, especially necessary because the editor notes that much slang

comes from adolescents and children.

The *Pronouncing Dictionary of Proper Names*, compiled by John K. Bollard et al. (2d ed. Detroit: Omnigraphics, 1998. xxxv, 1097p. \$80; 1st ed. 1993. AC109) has grown to "pronunciations for more than 28,000 proper names, selected for currency, frequency, or difficulty of pronunciation including place names; given names; names of famous individuals; cultural, literary, historical and Biblical names; mythological names; names of people and tribes; company names and product names . . . (Subtitle). Most of the 5,000 new geographical and biographical names have come from current events, popular culture, and sports.

The *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, edited by Everett Ferguson (1990. BC274) has expanded into a two-volume, second edition (New York: Garland, 1997. 2v. [xxvii, 1213p] Garland Reference Library of the Humanities, 1839. \$150) with an updating of the bibliography, but also greater coverage of the eastern expansion of Christianity (extending the chronological coverage), the "influence of the biblical books and Greek philosophers on Christian writers and the patristic use of these" (Pref.), the historical context (pagan relations and philosophy) and social history of the saints, monasticism, and modern scholars. The articles are signed, there are cross-references, and the indexing is careful, with pagination of major treatments given in bold.

Garland has produced a number of reference resources for Arthurian literature: *Medieval Arthurian Literature: A Guide to Research* (1996), *The New Arthurian Encyclopedia* (1991. BE343), and now a revised *Arthurian Handbook* (2d ed. 1997. 409p. \$60, \$22.95; 1st ed. 1988. BE342). This new work updates the bibliographies and some of the chapters have been completely rewritten, such as the poetry section in modern literature, the discussion of Arthurian themes in the nonliterary arts, and the chapter on the visual arts.

The number of entries in the second edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of Nurs-*

*ery Rhymes*, compiled by Iona and Peter Opie (New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1997. xxix, 559p. \$45) is about the same as the first (1951. BE721), but new material featuring the history of a rhyme or additional sources have expanded the coverage. For example, for "Yankee Doodle," more information appears on the earliest printings as well as a definition of macaroni.

The newly issued *Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1996* is no longer published by the Government Printing Office but, rather, by CQ (Ed. Joel D. Treese. Alexandria, Va.: CQ Staff Directories, 1997. 2108p. portraits. \$295; previous edition had the title *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989*. CJ232), which has used its resources to update many of the entries with death dates, dates for non-Congressional offices (e.g., diplomatic posts, governors, Supreme Court, Cabinet coverage) and to bring the coverage up to September 30, 1996. With the 79th Congress (1945-1947), political party memberships are noted. The price is unfortunate, limiting public information to the libraries with larger reference budgets.

The new edition of the *Guide to the Papers of British Cabinet Ministers 1900-1964* (London: Royal Historical Society; New York: Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1996. 417p. \$27.95. *Guides and Handbooks*, no. 19; 1st ed. 1974 ) by Cameron Hazlehurst, Sally Whitehead, and Christine Woodland offers the same alphabetical arrangement under family name, adds information on the 323 ministers covered by the first edition, and "includes all Cabinet ministers (or those who held positions in a Cabinet during the period) until the resignation of Sir Alec Douglas-Home as Prime Minister in 1964" (*Introd.*), increasing the total to 384. The volume ends with a list of repositories, giving the address and the name of the archivist for each, an index of ministers with cross-reference from variant names, and a table of ministers who were not in the Cabinet, 1900-1964.

Longman has updated several titles in its handbook series and added new ones.

The *Longman Handbook of Modern European History, 1763-1997*, compiled by Chris Cook and John Stevenson (3d ed. New York: Addison-Wesley Longman, 1998. 550p. \$22.95; 1st ed. 1987. 2d ed. 1992. DC21) increases its coverage of events especially for the mid-1990s in the Soviet Union and the Balkans, updates the bibliographies and tables, and extends the biography portion. The *Longman Handbook of Modern British History, 1714-1995* (3d ed. London: Longman, 1996. 543p. \$21.50; 1st ed. 1983. 2d ed. 1988. DC294), compiled by Chris Cook and John Stevenson, updates coverage to the end of 1995 with particular attention to Britain's relations with Europe and the European Union. See also the *Longman Companion to Britain Since 1945*, also compiled by Chris Cook and John Stevenson (London: Longman, 1996. 324p. \$60.50, \$22.50), which covers up to July 1995 and has some of the same tables and chronologies, biographies, and glossary terms, but, of course, some that the *Modern British History* does not.

New to the group and following the same pattern is *Longman's Handbook of Modern American History, 1763-1996*, compiled by Chris Cook and David Waller (London: Longman, 1998. \$67.50, \$19.95), covering "from the Boston tea party to the presidential elections of November 1996 and the politics of contemporary America in the middle 1990s" (Pref.) and using standard sources such as E. Austin, *Political Facts of the United States Since 1789* (DB53), *Statistical Abstracts* and *Historical Statistics*, the *World Almanac* and *Information Please*. The compilers give chronologies and statistical tables for most of their topics, arranged under broad topics subdivided. The compilers conclude that the problem is not one of too little material, but too much.

*Bibliographie der Tarnschriften 1933 bis 1945* by Heinz Gittig (Munich: Saur, 1996. 260p. DM248) is a new edition of *Illegale antifaschistische Tarnschriften 1933-1945*, which appeared in 1972 as Beiheft 87 of the *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*. It is a listing in chronological order of more than

a thousand works (all the compiler could identify) of illegal publications under camouflaged authors and titles issued in Germany, Austria, and the German-occupied lands, 1933-1945. The compiler provides the false author and title, the real one, bibliographical information, and locations along with author and title indexes.—M.C.

Reuben and Naomi Musiker have provided scholars with useful compilations of South African reference resources. Their *Guide to South African Reference Books* (6th ed. London: Mansell, 1997. 240p. \$80; 1979 ed. AA353) with 1,139 numbered entries and extensive annotations "includes handbooks, manuals, and histories whenever conventional reference books (such as dictionaries, yearbooks, encyclopedias) do not exist for a specific subject field" (Pref.). The arrangement is still by broad subjects with a comprehensive index for authors, titles, and subjects. "Bibliographies are excluded . . . except in the case of a few cardinal subject bibliographies . . . [because] almost a thousand South African bibliographies are listed and described in a companion volume, *South African Bibliography*" (Intro.). The *South African Bibliography* is a survey of bibliographies and bibliographical work (3rd ed. London, New York: Mansell, 1996. 142p. \$70; 2d ed. 1982. AA72) that cites 1,139 numbered, annotated items in a topical arrangement.

The third edition of *Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary* (3d ed. Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, 1997. 1361p. maps. \$29.95; 2d ed. 1972, called *Webster's New Geographical Dictionary*. CL97) still covers historical as well as contemporary place names, but its focus is the United States and Canada, including all incorporated places in the United States with a population of 2,500 or more and for Canada a population of 4,500 or more, whereas for the United Kingdom it is 10,000 and for Turkey, 30,000. New to this edition are the glossary and the explanatory front matter. This is such a handy dictionary/gazetteer that one hopes it will be revised much more frequently.