

helpful to indicate somewhere in an author entry just which works do not have a separate entry. Perhaps the bibliography of an author's works that follows each author essay could have been coded in some way.

Rounding out the material in this three-volume work are a series of longer essays, about eight pages in length, each on various ethnic literatures ("The African-American Novel," "The Asian-American Novel," "The Latino Novel," and "The Native-American Novel"), as well as an essay on "The Detective Novel." Although these essays are a useful way to pull together information on the topics, one wonders why some others were not included. If there is an essay on the detective novel, why not one on the Western, or on the science fiction novel? Authors and works in those genres are certainly included; both Zane Grey and Louis L'Amour are here representing Western fiction, and both Ray Bradbury and Robert A. Heinlein are listed for science fiction, along with other authors in both genres.

Supplementary material includes two appendixes: the first, a list of major prizewinners in literature, and the second, a bibliography of sources as well as a list of contributors and a general index. One surprise is an error in the table of contents: the "List of Contributors" is indicated as beginning on page 1553; the "Index" on page 1555. In actuality, those two sections begin on pages 1453 and 1455 respectively. Although this is a small mistake it does make one doubt the care that was taken. It would also have been helpful to have a bit more information about each contributor, beyond the name and academic affiliation which is provided.

Despite these considerations, *The Facts On File Companion to the American Novel* fills an important niche. Having a compendium devoted only to the American novel will be useful for many high school and college libraries.—*Terry Ann Mood, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado at Denver*

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**Forensic Science: An Encyclopedia of History, Methods, and Techniques.** By William J. Tilstone, Kathleen A. Savage, and Leigh A. Clark. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2006. 307p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 1-57607-194-4).

Public interest in forensic science has grown tremendously in the past few years, fueled largely by authors Patricia Cornwell and Kathy Reichs and the popular television series, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*. It's this general audience, along with high school and college students, that Tilstone, Savage, and Clark hope to reach with their new encyclopedia on forensic science.

Like Jay A. Siegel's *Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences* (Academic, 2000)—a three-volume set geared towards the academic community and practitioners—this new scholarly work defines forensic science and its role in criminal and legal investigations; however, many students and patrons will find this new work more readable. The authors, all affiliated with the National Forensic Science Technology Center in Florida, preface the entries with an especially strong sixty-five-page introduction that delves into the history of forensic science—

from inventions of the eighteenth century to established experts in the nineteenth century—and current developments in the field, including computer forensics, digital evidence, and sophisticated database sharing. In their introduction, the authors offer an evenhanded portrayal of this often disputed science, and discuss both the field's successes (Marsh tests for arsenic poisoning, automated fingerprint identification systems, DNA analysis) and failings (incompetent laboratory workers, tainted testimonies, too-small budgets for much-needed resources).

The entries themselves are alphabetically arranged and can be searched via the contents section or extensive index at the end. Entry headings bolded within the text as well as on top of the page, make for easy use. Many entries contain accompanying black-and-white photographs, and all end with cross references and further reading suggestions that include current print and electronic citations. Topics include the more familiar methods of forensics (hair and fingerprint analysis), the less familiar (glass fractures, document examination), different types of deaths investigated (electric shock, drowning, mass disasters), and legal cases that are particularly significant in regard to forensic science (bite mark evidence in the Ted Bundy case, voice analysis in the Howard Hughes biographer hoax). In many entries, case histories are offered within the text to better illustrate the topic discussed.

Ultimately, this new encyclopedia is not only a good research tool, but also a fascinating read. Highly recommended for high school, college, and public libraries.—*Jennifer Johnston, Reference Librarian, San Bernardino, California*

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**Key Figures in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia.** Ed. by Richard K. Emmerson. New York: Routledge, 2006. 784p. acid free \$150 (ISBN 0-415-97385-6).

*Key Figures in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia* provides 587 biographical entries drawn from twelve previously published volumes in the Routledge Encyclopedias of the Middle Ages series (formerly the Garland Encyclopedias of the Middle Ages). This series began publication in 1993 and includes individual volumes on Scandinavia, France, England, Germany, Iberia, Italy, Ireland, Jewish civilization, Islamic civilization, trade and travel, and science and technology. All entries reprinted in *Key Figures*, the thirteenth volume of the series, are exactly as they appeared in the original volumes in which they were published.

Individuals whose biographies are included in *Key Figures* lived between 500 and 1500 in Europe and include people from all walks of life. While information for people who held powerful positions in medieval society is more readily available, the editor has attempted to include a wide range of individuals, "from emperors and queens to businessmen and traveling performers, from popes and university scholars to visionary women and heretics" (vii). Entries in *Key Figures*, arranged alphabetically by name, are written in a scholarly, yet accessible style, and include "see also" references and a list of further readings. In addition to a general index, a helpful