

mulation, use of the library, and accessing the existing body of folklore knowledge; "Selected Bibliography of American Folklore," which arranges resource types for further research into categories (dictionaries, encyclopedias, guides and directories, and so on); and "Entries by Category," which breaks down "folklore inquiry" into specific areas, including folk heroes and legendary figures, cultural groups, and more.

One slight weakness in readability occurs within the entries themselves. It would be easier for reading and scanning if important names and terms within the passages were in bold face. For instance, in the passage for the term "Jamaican-American Folklore," it would be helpful to have "Bob Marley" bold, even though Marley is not a separate entry.

There are other weaknesses as well. After each entry, there is a list for further reading that includes books, journal articles, and, occasionally, Web sites. The value of Web addresses printed in a book that could sit on the shelves for years is questionable. Additionally, the books and articles may not be easy for ninth- to twelfth-grade students to access.

The Internet often is a better source of information than a print volume. For example, on the topic of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the official Web site (www.aidsquilt.org) is very stable and gives a full history, current links, and up-to-date information that is beyond the scope of *Encyclopedia of American Folklore*.

At best, this book seems to be a good starting point for students and general researchers. The bibliographies could be of some value to more serious researchers. It would be most useful in academic environments where folklore is part of the curriculum; otherwise, authoritative, current Web sites or database resources may be better for more involved research.—*Theresa Kelly Darr, Library Director, Loyola Blakefield, Towson, Maryland*

Encyclopedia of Beat Literature. Ed. by Kurt Hemmer. Literary Movements Set. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 416p. alkaline \$75 (ISBN 0-8160-4297-7).

Part of the Facts On File Literary Movements series, *Encyclopedia of Beat Literature* attempts to differentiate itself from other books about the movement by focusing on the literary aesthetics of the beat culture rather than on personalities and other aspects. Editor Kurt Hemmer has chosen what he considers the most innovative works associated with the Beats and provided synopses and critical analyses of the literature as well as the background of the pieces and how they were received. The entries devoted to the writers, although they include biographical information, do not focus heavily on the writers as iconic figures, but rather on their writing. A "Selected Bibliography of Major Works written by Beat Writers" is included.

The "hundreds of entries" mentioned on the Facts On File Web site (www.factsonfile.com) is closer to 175 entries, ranging from about half a page to more than five for the entry on Jack Kerouac. The alphabetically arranged, signed entries include bibliographies and cross-references to other entries.

The book also includes a bibliography of secondary sources (in addition to the bibliographies following each entry) and a chronology of the beat movement.

Compared to the three-volume *The Beat Generation: A Gale Critical Companion* (Thomson Gale, 2003), Hemmer's one-volume book is, in some ways, less comprehensive. Although *The Beat Generation: A Gale Critical Companion* does not offer entries devoted to individual pieces of literature, the entries devoted to authors do include sections on individual works. In addition, although the two works contain some overlapping material, Hemmer's encyclopedia offers useful information about a growing area of research. Hemmer's book also includes entries on some works by such writers as Bob Dylan and Hunter S. Thompson, who were influenced by the aesthetics of the movement but are not traditionally included in it. In this way, Hemmer's *Encyclopedia of Beat Literature* will complement *The Beat Generation: A Gale Critical Companion*.

Encyclopedia of Beat Literature is recommended for public, academic, and high school libraries.—*Sigrid Kelsey, Associate Librarian, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge*

Encyclopedia of Catholicism. Ed. by Frank K. Flinn. Encyclopedia of World Religions. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 704p. acid free \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-5455-8).

In the larger Encyclopedia of World Religions series, Christianity is the only major religion divided into two volumes, one for Catholicism and one for Protestantism. This decision allows for a greater coverage of these two major Christian traditions. However, the decision leaves one to wonder why such a decision was applied to Christianity and not to other religions. Why, for example, is Islam not similarly divided into volumes for Sunnite and Shiite traditions? This is never explained in the preface. This bifurcation of Christian tradition between Catholic and Protestant also effectively diminishes the rich traditions of Eastern Orthodox and Coptic Christianity in the larger discussion. Articles in *Encyclopedia of Catholicism* deal with these traditions, but the vantage point is distinctly Roman Catholic.

Encyclopedia of Catholicism is perhaps most striking for being current without losing sight of the larger historical tradition. The work includes contemporary theological discussions, such as Inerrancy of Scripture, alongside early Christian controversies, such as Docetism. There are numerous biographical entries for living persons, such as Charles Curran, alongside historical figures, such as Ambrose of Milan. Editor Frank Flinn has done an outstanding job of including female subjects, such as Rosemary Radford Ruether and Teresa of Avila. Flinn also presents Catholicism from a more global perspective, with entries such as the Nagasaki Martyrs and Africa.

Flinn evidently strives for objectivity. He does not sugar-coat discussions about such topics as the crusade against the Albigensians or the recent pedophilia scandal. Flinn also suspends judgment about claims of miracles and the like, taking a tone that is neither skeptical nor enthusiastic.

SOURCES

The articles are quite readable and should be accessible to casual readers. However, at times one can sense a density in the articles where Flinn has shortened a much longer discussion. Articles vary in length from one column to several pages. Appropriate “see also” references often are provided, and every article offers suggestions for further reading. The work includes a useful chronology, a thorough index, and occasional, appropriate, black-and-white photographs.

Encyclopedia of Catholicism provides more depth and diversity than does the *Harper Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1995), although the earlier work is more exhaustive in its coverage of significant terms. Both works seem to have laypersons and students in mind. *Encyclopedia of Catholicism* makes an excellent addition to both academic and public library reference collections.—Steven R. Edscorn, *Library Director, Memphis Theological Seminary, Tennessee*

Encyclopedia of Globalization. Ed. by Roland Robertson and Jan Aart Scholte. New York: Routledge, 2007. 4 vols. \$750 (ISBN 0-415-97314-7).

Encyclopedia of Globalization is one of several recent reference works that focus on international and global affairs. Unlike O'Connor's *Encyclopedia of the Global Economy* (Greenwood, 2006) and Griffiths' *Encyclopedia of International Relations and Global Politics* (Routledge, 2005), which focus mainly on economics and international studies, Routledge's new, multivolume encyclopedia attempts to capture a variety of the contested notions of “globalization” from theoretical and policy-based academic perspectives. At the same time, the encyclopedia presents multifaceted and historical entries that include “cultural, economic, environmental, geographical, historical, legal, literary, political, psychological, and social dimensions” (4). As a whole, the work marks a departure from traditional disciplinary boundaries. It presents knowledge from a global perspective, reflecting what is now, according to some, a global society in which the world's six billion people are interconnected and interdependent.

This four-volume work has nearly four hundred entries, from “acid rain” to “postcolonialism” to “youth culture.” Each entry, written by a scholar in the field, provides an accessible yet scholarly essay and includes cross-referencing to related topics and a bibliography for further research. Because articles are written from their author's disciplinary perspective, cross-references and contextual definitions are essential to fully comprehending many of the articles. For example, the entry on “consumption” relies heavily on a presumed understanding of neoliberal economic theories and is based largely on notions of the negative impacts of neoliberal policies. Thus, a reader must be willing to pursue multiple topics and seek alternative perspectives to fully benefit from the richness of this work. To assist readers, a companion work such as *Dictionary of Globalization* (Routledge, 2007) would be useful for quick reference to definitions and concepts noted in entries.

The scope of the work provides space for topics and concepts that would otherwise be omitted or placed within

a discipline-specific source. In addition, the broad scope provides an opportunity to explore common definitions and notions. For example, “world-systems theory” is generally tucked away in sources on political science and sociology, while “biological diversity” is left to the natural sciences. Although entries for commonly known concepts such as “education,” “poverty,” and “science” may, on the surface, appear redundant to those found in other sources, the work provides a unique perspective that focuses on these concepts with a wider lens. They are viewed as culturally bound notions that are increasingly questioned and mutable as they engage other cultures and traditions through empire, migration, trade, and international treaties. Given the multidisciplinary focus required to support research and pedagogy of topics that are increasingly globalized in perspective, it is refreshing to find these concepts together.

Also noteworthy are more than five hundred pages of reprinted primary source documents that include treaties, manifestos, and statistics. The selected bibliography provides a rich source for further research and collection development. Finally, access is enhanced by a thorough index and a list of entries that is compiled alphabetically and topically.

Encyclopedia of Globalization is highly recommended for all academic libraries. It is of particular use for libraries that support global studies and international studies programs. Its unique perspective and scope would be helpful to faculty who are engaging in interdisciplinary research and course development and of particular use to students in such courses.—Steve Witt, *Associate Director of the Center for Global Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Encyclopedia of Health and Aging. Ed. by Kyriakos S. Markides. Los Angeles: Sage, 2007. 675p. alkaline \$150 (ISBN 978-1-4129—0949-5).

Over the past several years, a number of encyclopedias on aging have been published. Works such as Adriel Bettelheim's *Aging in America: A to Z* (CQ Pr., 2001) focus on political, social, and legislative factors affecting aging persons. Others discuss health topics at a level geared toward undergraduates and consumers and offer a multidisciplinary examination of aging, such as David Ekerdt's *The Encyclopedia of Aging* (Macmillan Reference, 2002), with its articles on “Careers in Aging” and “Visual Arts and Aging.” The *Encyclopedia of Health and Aging*, however, focuses entirely on health and medicine in aging, with writing geared toward researchers, practitioners, and students in the field of medicine and entries examining aging and geriatrics from a medical, scientific perspective.

The closest comparable work to *Encyclopedia of Health and Aging* is Joseph Kandel's *Encyclopedia of Senior Health and Well-Being* (Facts On File, 2003). Although it, too, looks at medicine and aging, it is written from a social point of view and “can be very helpful, particularly as a reference source for agencies” (ix). For example, the entry for “Caregivers” in *Encyclopedia of Health and Aging* examines the research on