

SOURCES

Harlem Renaissance Lives from the African American National Biography. Ed. by Henry L. Gates and Evelyn B. Higginbotham. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2009. 608p. acid free \$50 (ISBN 978-0-19-538795-7).

Some three hundred biographical entries make up this single-volume work on the Harlem Renaissance. Biographies are of both the now well known (Billie Holiday, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Lead Belly) and those known mostly to experts in the field. Each biography is followed by a list of further reading, which includes books, encyclopedia articles, and journal and newspaper articles. The biographies are taken from Gates and Higginbotham's monumental eight-volume work, *African American National Biography* (Oxford, 2008).

Supplementary material includes only a general index and a brief introduction. The index would benefit from sub-headings. An index entry is followed only by a series of page numbers, with no information as to what the entry is about. W. E. B. Du Bois, for example, is followed by two dozen page numbers. Any or all of them might be relevant or helpful to an individual researcher, but the index gives no specific information. A general bibliography also might have been helpful in addition to the lists of further readings.

Harlem Renaissance Lives contains only biographical entries. No entries cover topics related to the Renaissance, such as literary or artistic themes, publishing houses, individual works of literature or art, or historical events. In this sense, it is more limited than an earlier reference volume on the Harlem Renaissance, *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Literary Renaissance: The Essential Guide to the Lives and Works of the Harlem Renaissance Writers* by Lois Brown (Facts on File, 2006). That earlier work has some eight hundred entries, both biographical and topical. Several works published by Thomson Gale also cover the period. The first volume of the three-volume *The Harlem Renaissance: A Gale Critical Companion*, edited by Janet Witalec (Thomson Gale, 2003) contains chapters on the various arts that flourished during the Harlem Renaissance—music, performance, the visual arts, and literature. In addition, two volumes of Gale's *Dictionary of Literary Biography* examine the Harlem Renaissance. Volume 50 of this series is *Afro-American Writers before the Harlem Renaissance* (Gale, 1986) and volume 51 is titled *Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940* (Gale, 1987). Both volumes contain biographies, including extensive critical comment, bibliographies of primary and secondary works, and excerpts from primary works such as letters of the writers of this time and movement.

Libraries that do not already own one or more of the titles mentioned above, and those who seek to have a complete collection in the area, will find *Harlem Renaissance Lives* a valuable purchase.—Terry Ann Mood, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado, Denver

978-1-58765-518-0).

Wilson, a professor of political science at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, has previously coedited *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court* and authored *American Political Leaders (American Biographies)*. In this reference work, he has gathered more than 140 contributors from institutions from all around United States to put together this three-volume set that covers the history of American business. The entries are arranged alphabetically, and the beginning of each volume contains an A to Z list of entries along with a table of contents for that particular volume. Volume 1 also contains a list of contributors and a publisher's note. Volume 3 has several appendixes: a glossary, a bibliography arranged by topic, "Notable Persons in American Business History," "Notable American Companies and Corporations," "Federal Government Agencies," "Federal Laws," "Notable Court Decisions," and timeline of notable events. There are also several indexes included in volume 3.

The publisher's note states that the encyclopedia "provides broad, basic coverage of the business world, addressing the forces that shaped business, the regulations and organizations that kept it in balance and the major issues and ideas that emerged over the course of history" (ix). While the focus is on American business, there are essays in topics of foreign relations, such as trade agreements and international economic issues.

The articles range in length from several paragraphs to several pages. Each entry begins with some initial information about the topic, such as a definition, the date and place of the event, and the significance of the topic. Even the lengthier articles do not cover the topic in depth, as the source is designed to give the reader just an introduction to the topic. All articles are signed and have bibliographies, although those vary widely in length. Most entries have *see also* references. For example, under "Warehouse and Discount Stores" the *see also* includes "Catalog Shopping," "Retail Trade Industry," "Thrift Stores," and "Wal-Mart." There are a number of individuals profiled, such as Henry Ford, Walt Disney, Andrew Carnegie, and Madame C. J. Walker. The volumes are filled with insets of charts and photographs.

There are many resources that provide business history information, such as the *International Directory of Company Histories* (Gale, serial, 1988) and *Encyclopedia of American Business History* (Facts on File, 2006), and certainly the topics covered in this source can be extensively researched elsewhere. The editor does do a nice job of bringing all this information together in a readable format for those new to the subject area.

Recommended for school, public, and undergraduate libraries.—Stacey Marien, Budget and Finance Manager, Information Delivery Services, American University, Washington, D.C.

Historical Encyclopedia of American Business. Ed. by Richard L. Wilson. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2009. 3 vols. Alkaline \$364 (ISBN

Magill's Survey of World Literature. Rev. ed. Ed. by Steven G. Kellman. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2009. 6 vols. Alkaline \$499

(ISBN 978-1-58765-431-2).

Magill's Survey of World Literature is a new, expanded edition of the 1993 title of the same name. In six volumes, the set covers 380 major writers from all time periods and defines "world literature" as literature written by authors "outside the United States" (ix). *Magill's Survey of American Literature* (Salem, 2007) fills in this gap, but as this is not the standard definition of "world literature," it should be noted. Authors who have some affiliation to the United States are included, however, such as Roald Dahl, Vladimir Nabokov, and Elie Wiesel.

Arranged alphabetically by author, each entry is divided into a biography, an analysis of the author's work in general, and at least one (and up to five) detailed analyses of specific titles by that author. For example, following a biography of Ngugi wa Thiong'o (born 1938, Kenya), analysis is provided on his novels *Weep Not, Child*, *The River Between*, *The Wizard of the Crow*, and his play *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi*. At the end of each author's section there is also a brief summary of the author, a bibliography of the works by and about the author, and (most handily for students or librarians trying to help students) a list of discussion topics suitable for papers. Students can attempt to answer such questions as "Was Marcel Proust a snob? How is snobbery treated in *Remembrance of Things Past*?" (2097) in the five-paragraph essay format for their sophomore lit classes.

Each of the six volumes includes a complete list of contents for the set, and volume six also contains several appendixes and indexes. They include a glossary of literary terms; a category list, in which authors are identified under such headings as "Gay or Bisexual Writers," "Playwrights," and "Women"; a geographical list (for what it's worth, England is the country most represented in this set, although there are entries regarding authors from Botswana, Albania, and Myanmar as well); a title index; and an author index.

Because *Magill's Survey of World Literature* includes authors from all time periods, it does contain fewer entries than a comparable set such as the *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century* (St. James, 1999). Instead of being encyclopedic, the *Survey of World Literature* focuses instead on lengthier essays on more well-known names "at the heart of literary studies for middle and high school students and at the center of book discussions among library patrons" (ix). With these audiences in mind, the discussion questions pertaining to each author become especially attractive, although the authors covered are surely of interest to students in literature survey courses in junior and four-year colleges. Recommended for middle school through university libraries and public libraries.—Tracy Carr Seabold, *Reference Services Director, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson*

Milestone Documents of American Leaders: Exploring the Primary Sources of Notable Americans. Ed. by Paul Finkelman. Dallas, Tex.: Schlager, 2009. 4 vols. Acid free \$395 (978-0-9797758-5-7).

This set is intended to be a companion to the earlier

Milestone Documents in American History (2008). However, the new work can stand nicely on its own because it provides primary texts from a balanced set of influential people. Some examples of figures included are Cesar Chavez, Sam Houston, Jane Addams, Frederick Douglass, Tecumseh, Colin Powell, and J. Edgar Hoover. Entries seem well-balanced in terms of political party affiliation, and it is evident that the editor was intentional about including women and ethnic minorities.

Entries include a number of U.S. presidents; however, not all presidents are included. For example, the work includes recent presidents Nixon, Reagan, Clinton, and George W. Bush while omitting Ford, Carter, George H. W. Bush, and Obama. Here the qualification seems to be a second term in office, though some influential one-term presidents such as John F. Kennedy are included. The work includes a few influential leaders who lost presidential elections, such as Henry Clay, Barry Goldwater, and Al Gore Jr.

The primary documents include compositions for both oral and written delivery. They include speeches and sermons, memorials, Supreme Court opinions, letters, military orders, and newspaper editorials. The texts generally appear in their complete form, but a few texts from prolix nineteenth century orators such as Daniel Webster and Henry Clay have been sensibly condensed.

Generally, the documents included for each figure are of high canonical importance. For example, the entry for Lincoln provides the "House Divided" speech, the Gettysburg Address, and the two inaugural addresses.

While the centerpiece of this reference work is clearly the primary texts, the biographical essays and chronologies for each entry are a useful gateway to the primary content. These secondary essays are usually four to six pages in length, and they carefully supply the context for each primary document presented. It is these essays that set this reference work apart from Internet speech banks and anthologies.

For each main entry, the work provides "Questions for Further Study" that are clearly intended for use in secondary education, with a focus on American history classes. These questions may be useful discussion starters in that arena. However, this work probably has a wider audience than the questions would seem to indicate. These questions, along with glossaries for the primary documents that define words such as "indemnity," might subtly insult the intelligence of more advanced readers.

The four volumes are reasonably attractive, glossy, red, white, and blue hardbacks. They contain occasional black and white portraits and scanned images of original texts. The index and table of contents are thorough and useful.

The real value of this work is that it provides a laboratory for introducing the study of primary texts. Beyond American history, this could be a valuable resource for students in political science, rhetorical criticism, and argumentation. It is perhaps most appropriate for undergraduate education, though it could be accessible to many secondary students, and may continue to provide a useful collection of texts and basic contextual reference for graduate students and profes-