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"Encyclopedia of Africa: South of the Sahara" Book Review

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sidebars. For example, the subsection "Promoting Continence" in the chapter "Bladder and Bowel Control" provides a chart that shows how to help the patient and the caregiver solve the problem of incontinence; a list of ways to adapt an incontinent person's diet; a description of how the caregiver can try to cope emotionally; an illustrated guide to incontinence aids; and a photographic sequence of how to make up the bed of an incontinent person.

The models used in this book represent a range of races, ages, and relationships, and the style of writing reflects the fact that *Caregiver's Handbook* was originally published in England. The last chapter contains: details of financial benefits for which caregivers and/or patients may be eligible; the Patient's Bill of Rights; and a range of organization addresses (with telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and, when available, Web sites). An index, glossary, and personal record book are included.

Although similar in tone, *Caring for Someone in Your House* by authors K. N. Igges, W. M. Marcil, and C. J. Alterio (MAST Health Group, 1992) is narration-heavy, and has only a few black-and-white drawings. Problems and solutions are represented in depth, but the book does not cover the range of information found in *Caregivers Handbook*.

Caregivers Handbook is recommended unreservedly for all public libraries, libraries at schools and colleges that offer programs in home health care or practical nursing, and consumer health collections.—*Martha E. Stone, Coordinator for Reference Services, Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital*

Dictionary of Historical Allusions and Eponyms. By Dorothy Auchter. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO. 1998. 295p. acid free, \$65 (ISBN 0-87436-950-9).

Language, like time, never stands still. Its use reflects and expresses the ever-changing culture in which we live. Reference sources for the study

and use of language are also ever-changing, and a recently issued resource for English language study and research, ABC-CLIO's *Dictionary of Historical Allusions and Eponyms*, is a must acquisition for most public and academic libraries.

ABC-CLIO is an established name in reference publishing: its *America, History, and Life* and *Historical Abstracts* are two major subject bibliographies foundational to a reference collection. ABC-CLIO's literary companion series includes specialized encyclopedias for areas such as allegorical literature and frontier literature, to mention only two. The *Dictionary of Historical Allusions and Eponyms* is another fine addition to reference works in this area.

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable (Harper Collins, 1995) and *Facts On File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins* (Facts On File, 1997) are familiar reference sources. Not so familiar are reference sources for eponyms. The *Dictionary of Historical Allusions and Eponyms* is compiled from a variety of sources, including monographic studies to specialized and general encyclopedias.

Author Dorothy Auchter, a reference librarian at Ohio State, has one purpose with this work: "to bring the stories of people back to life." The work lists current meaning for nearly six hundred allusions and eponyms from all eras including the present.

Entries average a column (two columns per page) and sources are listed at the end. A subject index is given at the end of the book.

The book is more than a good reference tool, however. It would make a great gift for people with an interest in words and language. I recommend this for individuals and libraries of all types.—*Rosemary A. Franklin, Bibliographer for English and Comparative Literature, University of Cincinnati*

Encyclopedia of Africa: South of the Sahara. Ed. by John Middleton. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1997. 4 vols. acid free, \$475/set (ISBN 0-684-80466-2/set).

The Encyclopedia of Africa, South of the Sahara (EASS), currently the only publication of its kind, is designed to fill a longstanding gap. Unlike other types of reference works on Africa, *Europa's Africa—South of the Sahara* (Europa Publications Limited, 1998) or the *Europa World Year Books* (Europa Publications Limited, 1998), *EASS* emphasizes the people of each country and the histories and cultures of this huge continent. It seeks to set out in only four volumes, generally what is known and accepted about human accomplishment in Africa.

The four volumes contain three introductory essays, 878 signed articles, and three appendices: "African Studies outside Africa"; "A Chronology"; and "Ethnic and Identity Groups." The directory of consultants and contributors is impressive. The editors made a special effort to ensure a large percentage of the contributors were actually Africans who reside on the continent, whereas in the past, reference works of this kind had little or no African contributors. Particularly, the contribution of women to the life of Africa heretofore generally has been glossed over. In the *EASS* the editors made sure that the contributions of African women were well represented. Entries are arranged in alphabetical order and the contributors were encouraged to present the subjects factually but to interpret the subject matter as they saw fit.

Black-and-white photographs and maps sprinkled throughout illustrate significant people and places important to the history of Africa. Many of the photographs are rare and fascinating, coming from some of the most prestigious museum collections throughout the world and add tremendous value to the set.

There are some unique features of this encyclopedia. Researchers need to be aware of the fact that the country entries focus on the geography, economy, statistics, history, government, peoples, and culture of that country. Only the postcolonial history of that country is included in

that first general article. For a history of the country during the colonial period, one must turn to such headings as "Colonial Policies and Practice: British" or "Southern Africa."

One of the most interesting parts of this encyclopedia is Appendix A: "African Studies outside of Africa," which describes research and writing involving Africa currently being done on other continents. For example, major themes in the study of Africa that have prevailed in France over the years include "representation and symbols" and "traditional and modern economics." Several pages devoted to a discussion of the study of Africa as a continent are provided under each continent heading.

A word of caution is in order: These articles are broad in nature and tend to limit themselves to an overview of the topic. For an in-depth treatment of the topic, consult such reference works as the World Bibliographical Series with its annotated bibliographies. For up-to-date information on the economy and the political situation use *Africa—South of the Sahara* or the *Europa Year Book* as your main source. Recommended for all large academic and public libraries.—*M. Elaine Hughes, Reference Desk Coordinator, Information Services Department—Reference Unit, Pullen Library, Georgia State University, Athens*

Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century. Ed. by Eric L. Haralson. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1998. 536 p. \$95 (ISBN 1-5790-408-4).

This excellent *Encyclopedia*, like the Library of America anthology it is "keyed" to, is brilliant in a way so many intellectual projects are not: it is readable. While not an actual Library of America publication, it partakes of the spirit of accessibility and intellectual freedom that marks that impressive series. Editor Eric Haralson, a former textual researcher for the Library, has attracted a wide range of scholars and poets to the project, and their writing is as impressive as their creden-

tials. The emphasis is on an invitation to intellectual engagement, not on cant or dogma. And this is in support of, not despite, the professed goal of a participation "in the ongoing effort to recuperate 'lost' or submerged parts of the cultural heritage of the United States."

The *Encyclopedia* serves well as a companion volume to the two-volume anthology *American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century*, published by the Library of America in 1993. The work of nearly 150 poets was collected in that anthology; more than 100 of these poets are now given articles in the *Encyclopedia*. Many more are treated in a group of essays included in the *Encyclopedia*: "Nineteenth-Century Versions of American Indian Poetry"; "Popular Poetry"; "Songs and Ballads"; and "Spirituals." All the essays are arranged alphabetically, and vary in length according to the importance of the writer—Dickinson's entry is nearly eleven pages, Emerson's ten, while Sarah Helen Whitman's is nearly three—with even the lesser-known writers receiving substantial treatment. The individual entries are well cross-referenced. The *Encyclopedia* notes when there is a correlation between the work under discussion in the critical essay and the work printed in the original anthology, which is very helpful to the serious student using all three books. However, the essays—which recover little-known figures such as Amos Bronson Alcott (a friend of Emerson and Thoreau) and Albery Allson Whitman (a contemporary of Frederick Douglass), as well as more familiar names—are by no means limited to discussion of the anthologized work. Also, each essay is followed by a short bibliography of the poet's work, and—most helpfully—a "Further Reading" bibliography that can direct continued study.

The scope of this book is truly amazing: it gives evidence not only of the tremendous explosion in scholarly "recuperation" that has taken place in the past three decades, but also of the great effort of editing

and compilation in these areas necessary to bring into being works such as this *Encyclopedia*, as well as the many volumes in Gale's ongoing endeavor. This creative and learned book is more than useful: it's stimulating.—*James Cummins, Curator, Elliston Poetry Collection, University of Cincinnati*

Encyclopedia of the Consumer Movement. Ed. by Stephen Brobeck. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 1997. 659p. acid free, \$99.50 (ISBN 0-87436-987-8).

Over the last few decades, American water and air has become cleaner, automobiles have become safer, and government agencies have become more accountable. These changes have been due, at least in part, to the consumer movement within the United States. Often associated with the work of Ralph Nader, the American consumer movement has become a powerful force for protecting the health and welfare of Americans. In addition, its influence has spread around the world, giving rise to consumer movements in many other countries.

This encyclopedia seeks to summarize the state of knowledge on the consumer movement, with the major focus on the United States. Almost two hundred individual articles authored by 168 contributors provide a historical framework for examining the influence and results of the consumer movement not only in the manufacture of consumer products but also in governmental policies. The work covers seven topics: general articles (e.g., economic deregulation); consumer populations (e.g., older consumers); consumer movement activities (e.g., advocacy); government and consumer organizations including federal, state, and local agencies, research organizations, and advocacy groups; consumer leaders, although only three (Ralph Nader, Esther Peterson, and Colston Warne) receive their own articles; consumer protections, focusing specifically on health and safety, economic and financial protection, and marketing; and con-