

policies, corporate profit motive, and governmental agency definitions that limit the choices individuals have. Readers should also read the “Precautionary Principle” entry (264) to understand valuing life and dealing with risks, as well as just using statistical life as the major metric.

This encyclopedia can be read cover to cover to get an overview of some of the principles (economic and political) that are essential to environmental and natural resource economics. It is available as an e-book, but serendipity while leafing through the print edition will lead to reading such entries as “Hedonic Price Method” (178) or “Natural Monopoly” (220), concepts which might not be found when looking for specific definitions in the e-book.

This is an important resource for students, faculty, and the general public to learn more about some of the concepts and economists involved in the application of economic ideas to the environment. As John C. Whitehead reminds all in his entry on “Earth Day,” Gaylord Nelson’s statement about the significance of the first Earth is still true. Whitehead says, “the efficient management of the earth’s resources is still one of the most fundamental issues that society faces” (115).—Linda Loos Scarth, retired reference librarian, independent scholar, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Faiths Across Time: 5,000 Years of Religious History. By J. Gordon Melton. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 4 vols. acid free \$415 (ISBN: 978-61069-025-6). E-book available (978-1-61069-023-3), call for pricing.

This timeline represents a vast undertaking for a single author. Using Egyptian records as a starting point, Melton has arranged major religious events and developments from around the world into a single chronology. This chronology is more inclusive, especially regarding traditional religions, than Tim Cooke, ed. *Concise History of World Religions: An Illustrated Timeline* (National Geographic, 2011). Melton also provides up to two paragraphs describing each event in the chronology, while the National Geographic publication usually provides only a single sentence. These differences account for the difference in length, where *Faiths Across Time* requires four volumes that are each approximately the size of the *Concise History*’s single volume.

Faiths Across Time includes a few longer, informative essays, usually a half page or a full page, on selected topics from the timeline. It also includes occasional grayscale photographs and illustrations. By comparison, the *Concise History of World Religions* includes more frequent essays, long chapter introductions, and ubiquitous color photographs and illustrations. Overall, this renders the *Concise History* more visually appealing, while *Faiths Across Time* is more informative and more comprehensive.

Faiths Across Time also comes across as more objective and more culturally sensitive than the *Concise History*. For example, a one-column essay about Greek Religion in the *Concise History* focuses on the hedonistic qualities of the Olympian deities and on the philosophers’ negative reception of that

tradition, without discussing how the Olympian religion might have been an expression of the human condition or held any meaning for its adherents. It comes across as implicitly anti-polytheistic. By comparison, *Faiths Across Time* begins a brief essay about monotheism in the ancient world by acknowledging how uncommon it was in ancient times before proceeding to mention Akhenaten and then the Hebrews. An essay about the Mystery Religions in *Faiths Across Time* is equally objective in approaching these ancient, polytheistic traditions. To be fair, the *Concise History* is also more objective with large, contemporary traditions such as Islam.

All four volumes of *Faiths Across Time* contain a comprehensive index to the entire work, and page numbers are continuous through the four volumes. This makes the work rather accessible.

The real value of this work is in its ability to fit religious events and developments into the broader chronological and geographic context of religious history. One could imagine a researcher turning to this work in order to compare events from the Mayan civilization with those from the Egypt or to compare events in the development of Islam with events in eastern Christianity. It is doubtful that a researcher studying a single tradition would turn to this work first in order to gain an introduction, but the work might be useful to such a person in establishing context. It is also an interesting work to browse. *Faiths Across Time: 5,000 Years of Religious History* is appropriate for the reference shelves of academic libraries supporting undergraduate programs. It is also appropriate for secondary school libraries where an objective approach to comparative religious history would be valued.—Steven R. Edscorn, Executive Director of Libraries, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Food History Almanac: Over 1,300 Years of World Culinary History, Culture, and Social Influence. By Janet Clarkson. Rowman & Littlefield Studies in Food and Gastronomy. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014. 2 vols. alkaline. \$195 (ISBN: 978-1-4422-2714-9). E-book (978-1-4422-2715-6), \$194.99.

The author, Janet Clarkson, is the Australian author of *Pie: A Global History* (Reaktion Books, 2009) and *Soup: A Global History* (Reaktion Books, 2010) as well as a food-related blog called *The Old Foodie* (www.theoldfoodie.com). According to the preface, the author came to write this book because she wanted to do something with the large amount of food information she had collected over the years. She started writing her blog eight years ago and evolved into writing two books on pie and soup and now this almanac. The introduction states that this book “is an almanac in the broadest sense of the word in that it has a calendar format. For every day of the year there is a selection of stories with a food history theme”(xi).

The almanac is in two volumes with Volume 1 covering January through June and Volume 2 covering July through December. Each month is then arranged by day. Under each

SOURCES

day is a random sample of entries under headings such as Food Firsts, Discoveries & Inventions, Journals & Letters, and Food & War. Under each heading is then an entry with a date. For example, under May 29 one finds the entry Food & War, and under that heading is "1176: Milan." The information goes on to explain how a yeast cake made in the shape of a dove originated from the Battle of Legnano.

At the end of Volume 2 is an index for the recipes that appear in the almanac. The recipes are listed in alphabetical order, and instead of listing the page number for the recipe, one is only given the almanac date. This makes it more cumbersome to find the recipe than being able to go right to a page number. There is a very short bibliography with only a handful of books and websites given for further interest. There is an alphabetical topic index with page numbers, but the indexing is not particularly strong. For example the Nazareth Sugar Cookie was named the state cookie of Pennsylvania on September 5, 2001. There is no reference in the index to Pennsylvania, State Food, or Sugar Cookie. There is an index entry for cookie with some page numbers. More troubling is that there is no list of primary or secondary sources used for the almanac. There is source information given in entries, such as "from the diary of Samuel Pepys" or "from the journals of Lewis and Clark," but no citation information anywhere.

This almanac is suited for personal use or for the public library. It is full of interesting tidbits of information, but the book is not arranged in any way that would be helpful for research. It is almost impossible to search for any topic in particular with the way the volumes are arranged and the lack of good indexing. The fact that there are no references or citations to any sources used to create the almanac make it not suitable for any academic library.—*Stacey Marien, Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, DC*

From the Brain to the Classroom: The Encyclopedia of Learning. Ed. by Sheryl Feinstein. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 589 pages. acid free \$100 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-539-8). E-book available (978-1-61069-540-4), call for pricing.

This title provides a wide-ranging survey of topics related to educational practice, neuroscience and cognition, psychology, and mental health topics. It consists of 104 signed entries written by highly qualified scholars in their respective fields. Each entry ranges in length from a page or less to five or more pages depending upon the topic. Entries include suggestions for further reading and cross-references to other relevant entries to provide readers with a more thorough treatment of the topic. It also includes an extensive and useful bibliography for locating more information. This book would be useful in academic and community college collections, particularly at institutions supporting education, health care, and psychology programs.

While I generally found *From the Brain to the Classroom* to be a worthwhile and useful resource, I recommend approaching its purchase with caution. In preparing this review,

I encountered *The Praeger Handbook of Learning and the Brain* (Praeger, 2006), also edited by Feinstein, in my own reference collection and began to draw comparisons between the two works. I found that this book is nearly identical to *From the Brain to the Classroom*. *From the Brain to the Classroom* included only six new entries, and all others are reprinted verbatim from *The Praeger Handbook of Learning and the Brain*. There also exists only minimal difference between the glossary terms included in the two books. The new entries include those concerned with technology, television, video games, brain anatomy, mirror neurons, and an entry on reading and miscue analysis. In the newer book, the "Further Reading" sections following each entry generally include more items, which I consider a benefit; however, on the whole, I cannot recommend this book for purchase by libraries who already own *The Praeger Handbook of Learning and the Brain*. Considering the funding limitations that concern most libraries today, the subtle differences between these two resources and the minimal amount of new content will not generally warrant the expenditure required to acquire both items. I do, however, recommend *From the Brain to the Classroom* for libraries who do not already own the Praeger set.—*Anita J. Slack, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Ursuline College, Pepper Pike, Ohio*

The Greatest Sitcoms of All Time. By Martin Gitlin. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2014. 419 p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN: 978-0-8108-8724-4). E-book available (978-0-8108-8725-1), \$64.99.

This one-volume work is a compilation of the best television sitcoms, spanning from the 1950s until today. In the introduction, Gitlin states that identifying the best television sitcoms was not an easy task and explains the six criteria used to determine the quality of the sitcoms included in this work.

The first criterion taken into account was the impact of the sitcom. As television became more and more popular, sitcoms began exploring more issues that were not necessarily brought to the forefront of popular culture. The next criterion used was the longevity of a show. Gitlin stated that it was important to take into account the ability of cast members, writers, and producers to expand story lines and stay relevant when considering a spot on the list of the greatest sitcoms of all time. The third criterion was television ratings. This criterion usually goes hand in hand with a show's longevity. The fourth criterion was the amount of awards a sitcom had acquired. Although there have been some sitcoms that have been passed over for awards that have still been praised as great sitcoms, most sitcoms use the amount of awards they receive as an indication of the quality of the show. The last two criteria used were humor and legacy. The ability of a sitcom to continue to be respected long past its initial television run speaks volumes to the quality of the sitcom.

Each entry is listed numerically with number one being considered the best and ends with its seventieth entry. Within each entry, readers can find the credits, dates the sitcoms originally aired, broadcast history, number of seasons, number of