

African Americans and Civil Rights: 1619 to the Present

by Michael L. Levine (296 pages, 1996). A history book intended for undergraduates, this stresses the political and legal dimensions of racism and resistance as well as the active role played by African Americans in shaping their future. A bibliography, chronology, glossary, and biographies of 60 individuals accompany the text. \$29.95. Oryx Press, 4041

North Central Ave., Suite 700, Phoenix, AZ 85012-3397. ISBN 0-89774-859-X.

Banned Books: 1996 Resource Guide

by Robert P. Doyle (139 pages, May 1996), is the latest compendium of books that have been banned or censored since 387 B.C. Books that were challenged in 1995-96 include Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*, and (once again) Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In addition to an annotated bibliography, this volume suggests promotional activities, publicity, and clip art for Banned Books Week, September 28-October 5, 1996. \$28.00. ALA, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611. ISBN 0-8389-7791-X.

The Dictionary of Art

edited by Jane Shoaf Turner (34 volumes, October 1996), may well be a watershed in the history of art reference. It certainly is an ambitious project which seeks the same niche that the publisher's *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* holds in music. With contributions from 6,700 scholars in more than 120 countries (many of whose writings will appear in English for the first time), this set encompasses both the fine and the decorative arts. Its sheer scope demands superlatives: the largest international collaboration in the history of art publishing; the broadest coverage in English of African, Asian, Eastern European, and Islamic art and culture; the most up-to-date scholarship on 20th-century artists, schools, styles, movements, theories, issues, techniques, patrons, collectors, and critics; the most art biographies (20,800) contained in any single work; the largest single collection of



images (15,000) in any one publication; the most comprehensive selection of topical bibliographies in the field of art history (300,000 entries); one of the most detailed indexes anywhere, with 670,000 index entries providing access to the dictionary's 41,000 essays. With a list price of \$8,000, many libraries may need to find an art patron who will support this acquisition; however, this set will be in

high demand once it is on the shelves. Grove's Dictionaries, 150 Fifth Ave., Suite 916, New York, NY 10011. ISBN 1-884446-00-0.

An Einstein Dictionary

by Sachi Sri Kantha (298 pages, March 1996), includes 600 encyclopedic entries on Albert Einstein's personal life, physics, philosophy, and politics. This volume is useful as a quick fact-finder. (What was the Einstein viscosity equation? Was Einstein a heavy smoker? Why did J. Edgar Hoover collect thousands of pages of spurious information on Einstein? What Librarian of Congress wrote a poem entitled "Einstein?") A bibliography of Einstein's scientific articles accompanies the text. \$75.00. Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881-5007. ISBN 0-313-28350-8.

The Elements of Expression: Putting Thoughts into Words

by Arthur Plotnik (225 pages, April 1996), is a great book. It really, really is. And if you find yourself writing or saying words like "great" or "really" more than you think you should, then get a copy of *The Elements of Expression* and be inspired by it to write, speak, and even think more expressively, whether in slang or sonnet. Plotnik writes like Woody Allen imitating Calvin Trillin emulating William Safire. He entertains as he instructs you in the arts of verbal forcefulness, apt quotation, identifying the audience, and vocabulary improvement. To dip into Plotnik before writ-

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ing letters, leaflets, or literature is to sip a fine wine before assaulting the steak and potatoes. See? It even made this review better. \$20.00. Henry Holt, 115 W. 18th St., New York, NY 10011. ISBN 0-8050-3773-X.

The Encyclopedia of the Victorian World, edited by Melinda Corey and George Ochoa (672 pages, April 1996), is a helpful reader's companion to British and American culture and politics from 1837 to 1901. The entries are of manageable length for quickly checking facts, people, and places. Have you always wondered about things like the Reform Bill of 1867, Symbolist poets, cookshops and porridge, Annie Besant and Maud Gonne, and who discovered the satellites of Saturn? This book holds the answers. \$50.00. Henry Holt, 115 W. 18th St., New York, NY 10011. ISBN 0-8050-2622-3.

Discovering Fossil Fishes, by John G. Maisey (223 pages, July 1996), traces the evolution of fishes over the course of 500 million years, describing the discovery of their fossils and their role as ancestors of the terrestrial vertebrates (like us). The author's enthusiasm for the subject is infectious and the illustrations, both of real fossils and artist's conceptions, are enticing. Other fossil books pass lightly over extinct fish families in a mad dash to describe the dinosaurs, but this one lingers fondly over the diversity of ostracoderms, arthrodiroids, acanthoidians, placoderms, sharks, and teleosts. Exciting and understandable. Henry Holt, 115 W. 18th St., New York, NY 10011. ISBN 0-8050-4366-7.



In Our Own Voices: The Changing Face of Librarianship, by Khafre K. Abif and Teresa V. Neely (434 pages, December 1995), is a well-chosen collection of essays by 25 African American, Asian American, Native American, Mexican American, and Latin American librarians who describe their introduction to librarianship, their encounters with racism, and their desire

to succeed in a challenging profession. Of particular interest to academic librarians is Part I, which includes Monica Garcia Brooks ("Mexican American Mountaineer"), Deborah Hollis ("On the Ambiguous Side"), and Edna Dixon ("To Be Young, Maybe Gifted, and Truly Black"). All types of librarians will empathize with Tanya Elder's dissection of the children's librarian's experience, "Hip v. Nice v. Traditional v. Nasty v. AAAARRRRGGGHHH!" With a foreword by E. J. Josey. \$45.00. Scarecrow Press, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706. ISBN 0-8108-3074-4.

Microsoft Bookshelf 1996-97 Edition (CD-ROM, April 1996) has been improved by the addition of an Internet Directory with information on and links to nearly 5,000 Web sites and newsgroups (updates to the directory are available for downloading after the 5th of each month), the Hammond maps have been replaced by a concise Encarta world atlas (though nowhere near the detail offered by the full version), and a national zip code directory (you provide the address, Bookshelf gives you the zip code). The user interface has also been improved for this edition, and Macintosh support has been enhanced. Retail for approximately \$55.00.

Two completely new Microsoft products are **Complete Gardening CD-ROM** and the **Reader's Digest Complete Do-It-Yourself Guide CD-ROM** (both of these require Windows 95). The *Gardening* CD-ROM gives concise descriptions of nearly 4,000 plants likely to be found in American gardens and offers solutions to such common problems as pests, diseases, adverse soil conditions, and overwatering. Video and animation sequences provide overviews of types of plants or gardening activities. The *Do-It-Yourself* CD-ROM allows the home or library maintenance specialist to learn the best way to tackle repairs and use 600 different tools. You can also tour an interactive, animated 3-D house to learn how plumbing, heating, and wiring works. Each CD-ROM retails for approximately \$35.00.

Postcards in the Library: Invaluable Visual Resources, edited by Norman D. Stevens

(233 pages, March 1996), contains 18 articles on the importance of postcard collections in scholarly research. Although postcards are vastly underutilized in research settings, Stevens reminds us that they may contain the only remaining visual images of a building, monument, person, or place during a specific time period; that postcard collections may represent the best set of images of a natural feature, an historic event, or a city or town; and that the messages written on the backs of postcards can reveal a great deal about individual or societal attitudes. Of particular interest are articles on the Curt Teich Postcard Archives (Katherine Hamilton-Smith), the Marguerite Archer Collection of Historic Children's Materials (Meredith Eliassen), George Watson Cole's plan for postcard classification and the holdings of the American Antiquarian Society (Jennifer Henderson), and postcard preservation

options (Jan Merrill-Oldham). Simultaneously published as *Popular Culture in Libraries*, Vol. 3, No. 2. \$34.95. Haworth Press, 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13904-1580.

The **Seismo-Watch Newsletter**, a weekly publication now in its fourth year, offers a worldwide survey of earthquake activity with particular emphasis on North American events. Libraries in fault areas will find this newsletter especially useful as a timely record of local quakes. Predictions and forecasting are explicitly excluded. Notable seismic events, trends, historical correlations, seismological and geological terms, and significant earthquakes of the past are summarized in sidebars. Preparedness information is also included. A yearly subscription is \$65.00. Advanced Geologic Exploration, P.O. Box 18012, Reno, NV 89511. ISSN 1079-2821. ■

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Copyright and intellectual property rights

The section sponsored a program on "Copyright and Fair Use in the Electronic Information Age: Implications for Academic Libraries." Speakers were from the European Bureau of Libraries, the Information and Documentation Association in Belgium, the Association of Research Libraries, and Trondheim University in Norway. Copyright issues were very much on the mind of most conference delegates and other IFLA groups held meetings on the topic as well. A preconference seminar on the topic was held in Tianjin, China, August 22–23, and attended by 55 participants from China and other countries.

User education

Another topic of interest at the IFLA Conference was user education. The new IFLA Roundtable on User Education sponsored two programs in Beijing. One was on "Information Literacy: Global Perspectives," featuring papers from Finland, China, South Africa, and the United States. Another program featured the theme of "User Education for Remote Library Users," with speakers from the United States and Canada.

Other highlights

Li Peng, China's premier, addressed the opening session of the conference saying that China

is committed to the continued development of its systems of libraries, literature preservation and information, and to integrating them with the country's overall progress. News about the IFLA Conference was featured on Chinese television every day and written about in Chinese newspapers.

Social and cultural events provided by the Chinese government and the Chinese IFLA Organizing Committee were impressive. All conference participants were taken to two events across the city by 90 buses in a police-escorted caravan while all traffic along the route stopped. The first event was a kaleidoscope of Chinese folk music, dance, acrobatics, and opera. The second event was a sit-down dinner in the Hall of the People—an elegant, efficiently served dinner of 12 courses. The host country and thousands of volunteers ensured that delegates enjoyed the conference.

The exhibits were interesting and educational and especially attractive to thousands of Chinese who were able to attend them.

Professional dialogues and exchanges with peers from China and other parts of the world proved most enlightening and useful. The knowledge that we in academic libraries share problems, issues, and challenges and must work together to find solutions encouraged many of us to face these challenges here in the U.S. and to seek solutions globally in cooperation with our colleagues in other countries. ■