

**E-Book Functionality: What Libraries and Their Patrons Want and Expect from Electronic Books**, by Susan Gibbons, Thomas A. Peters, and Robin Bryan (138 pages, June 2003), outlines the most useful characteristics of e-books, concluding that library users expect them to have all the same features as paper books with such added benefits as multimedia capability, linking, forms, and access to relevant discussion lists. An annotated bibliography of materials on e-book features serves as the core of this publication. \$34.99. ALA Library and Information Technology Association. ISBN 0-8389-8229-8.

**Encyclopedia of Christmas and New Year's Celebrations**, by Tanya Gulevich (977 pages, 2d ed., April 2003), is a major expansion of the 1999 edition, containing nearly 240 entries on the history, legends, customs, symbols, and worldwide observances of Christmas and western New Year's traditions. Find out about the symbolism of St. Basil's bread in Greece, the star of Bethlehem, wasailing the fruit trees, Christmas in Lebanon and Iraq, the first Christmas card in 1843, and the winter goddesses of northern Europe. A handy guide with a substantial bibliography and webliography. \$68.00. Omnigraphics. ISBN 0-7808-0625-5.

**Encyclopedia of Cuba**, edited by Luis Martínez-Fernández, D. H. Figueredo, Louis A. Pérez Jr., and Luis González (688 pages, 2 vols., January 2003), encompasses all of Cuban history and society from the colonial period to the present. Divided into 12 subject areas (including geography, literature, performing arts, and the Cuban diaspora), the book's 81 contributors offer a balanced view of the island's culture and politics, seeking to avoid such distortions as crediting all progress in Cuba to the Revolution or blaming it for every misfortune. The essays are

both biographical (Reinaldo Arenas, José Martí) and topical (educational system, Cienfuegos Province, Cubans in the U.S. music industry), with many black-and-white illustrations and several pages of color plates. An excellent choice for either general or Latin American collections. \$174.95. Greenwood. ISBN 1-57356-334-X.

**Encyclopedia of Food and Culture**, edited by Solomon H. Katz and William Woys Weaver (3 vols., December 2002), contains 600 articles on food, festivals, food production, nutrition, and eating customs around the world. Though written for a college-level audience, the essays range from the scientific and historical to the provocative and intriguing with numerous sidebars and subsections on such topics as "The French Influence on Lunch," "How to Use Chopsticks," and the lyrics to "Great Green Globes of Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts." Particularly useful for students of anthropology and sociology as well as cuisine. \$395.00. Charles Scribner's. ISBN 0-684-80658-5.

**Google Hacks**, by Tara Calishain and Rael Dornfest (330 pages, March 2003), contains a wealth of tips and tools to enhance the Google searching experience. The first two chapters delve into special syntaxes (site:, inurl:, phonebook:) and special services (groups, images, news), which alone are worth a close look. Most of the rest of the book requires you to obtain a Google Web API, which allows programmatic access to the Google index and the ability to run scripts using Perl or Java, but the last chapters offer Google pranks and games, and tips on maximizing the Google effectiveness of your Web site. \$24.95. O'Reilly. ISBN 0-596-00447-8.

**Library: An Unquiet History**, by Matthew Battles (245 pages, June 2003), examines the challenges and redefinitions that the library as an institution has survived throughout the ages. In a series of essays on the social function of libraries, Battles covers ancient and medieval collections, Jonathan Swift's satire "The Battle of the Books," the accomplishments of Antonio Panizzi and Melvil Dewey, Nazi book burnings, and the destruction of Bosnian libraries by Serbian nationalists. Harvard's collections are also mentioned frequently, as Battles is

George M. Eberhart is senior editor of *American Libraries*, e-mail: geberhart@ala.org

coordinating editor of the *Harvard Library Bulletin*. \$24.95. W. W. Norton. ISBN 0-393-02029-0.

**Male Witches in Early Modern Europe**, by Lara Apps and Andrew Gow (190 pages, April 2003), examines the significance of the arrests and trials of male witches during the European witch craze of the 15th–18th centuries. Although Apps and Gow do not dispute the feminist analysis that patriarchy and misogyny were primary causes of the persecution, they effectively challenge the marginalization of male witches by such authors as Anne Barstow (*Witchcraze*, 1994) and the assumption by Stuart Clark (*Thinking with Demons*, 1997) that male witches were conceptually impossible for contemporary demonologists. The authors examine the *Malleus maleficarum* and other texts, including the narrative of Johannes Junius, who was burned at the stake in Bamberg, Germany, in 1628. \$ 24.95. Manchester University. ISBN 0-7190-5709-4.

**Nostradamus: L'éternel retour**, by Hervé Drévilion and Pierre Lagrange (127 pages, April 2003), is a solid 21st-century reassessment of the famous 16th-century French physician, astrologer, prophet, and poet Michel de Nostredame,



better known as Nostradamus. A well-researched overview by historian Drévilion and sociologist Lagrange, this French-language paperback highlights the differing interpretations of Nostradamus's purposely obscure prophecies, and includes the

hoaxed quatrains on the Internet that fooled people into thinking he had predicted the September 11 terrorist attacks. The historic illustrations will appeal to bibliophiles. In short, a good update to such comprehensive works as Edgar Leoni's *Nostradamus and His Prophecies* (1961) and Peter Lemesurier's *Nostradamus Encyclopedia* (1997). EUR11.60. Gallimard. ISBN 2-07-076748-5.

**The Secrets of Wildflowers: A Delightful Feast of Little-Known Facts, Folklore, and History**, by Jack Sanders (304 pages, April 2003), fits well into the genre of the old-style natural-history book that weaves botany, folklore,

herbalism, and poetry (including some verse of his own) into satisfying descriptions of 74 North American wildflowers, arranged by the season in which they bloom. Sanders also provides color photos of each flower and an annotated bibliography of other wildflower books. \$24.95. Lyons Press. ISBN 1-58574-668-1.

**Stagolee Shot Billy**, by Cecil Brown (296 pages, April 2003), tells the real-life story of the 1895 murder in St. Louis of Billy Lyons by Lee Shelton, also known as Stagolee or Stack Lee. The incident has been commemorated in jazz, folk, r&nb, and rock ballads ever since. Brown makes a good case for the persistence of Stagolee as an archetypal “bad man” figure in African-American culture, but he is on a bit shakier ground when he assumes a historical basis for certain recurring elements in the music. He also appears to be unaware of the details or even the date of Shelton's second trial in 1897 and seems obsessed with proving the murderer's occupation as a pimp even though the documentary evidence is thin. Nevertheless, his treatment of the Stagolee folklore and musical variants is worth examining. \$29.95. Harvard University. ISBN 0-674-01056-6.

**Strategic Bombing by the United States in World War II: The Myths and the Facts**, by Stewart Halsey Ross (244 pages, January 2003), calls into question the supposed precision of the air raids in Europe and Japan during the war and argues that the indiscriminate bombing of civilian centers actually did little to hasten the end of the war. Ross, who participated in bomb accuracy tests for the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps at Edwards Air Force Base in the mid-1950s, also discusses the stress levels among the airmen, who knew that the likelihood of their completing a 25-mission tour without getting killed, wounded, or captured was roughly 50 percent. \$39.95. McFarland. ISBN 0-7864-1412-X.

**You Can Prevent Global Warming (And Save Money!): 51 Easy Ways**, by Jeffrey Langholz and Kelly Turner (370 pages, April 2003), provides many practical tips on energy efficiency, from using less paper and installing sun-control window screens to car pooling and composting. Each section gives an estimate on the annual cost savings as well as the amount of carbon dioxide not emitted by adopting the featured suggestion. An easy read, but lacks an index. \$10.95. Andrews McMeel. ISBN 0-7407-3327-3. ■