New Publications

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The Encyclopedia of Cults, Sects, and New Religions, edited by James R. Lewis (951 pages, 2d ed., October 2002), expands and improves the 1998 edition by several hundred pages. Lewis and his contributors describe and define more than 1,000 religious groups, movements, and topics that fall outside mainstream traditions. New to this volume are a comprehensive index, selected references for many of the entries, Web site information, and extensive cross-references. The religious groups range widely from the semiothodox Churches of Christ (Non-Instrumental) and the Quakers to the more marginal Church of the Most High Goddess, Unarius, the Lemurian Fellowship, and the Reformed Druids of North America. $180.00. Prometheus. ISBN 1-57392-888-7.


Grzimek’s Animal Life Encyclopedia: Birds, series editor Michael Hutchins (4 vols., 2d ed., November 2002), has been published as volumes 8–11 of a 17-volume set that completely revises and updates the classic encyclopedia edited by the German zoologist Bernard Grzimek and released in English in the 1970s by Van Nostrand Reinhold. This substantial reorganization now clearly separates the general descriptions of animal orders and families from the species accounts. Distribution maps have been vastly improved, and the text is accompanied by numerous color photographs, plates, and other graphics. Nearly 100 ornithologists, curators, professors, and zookeepers contributed to the bird volumes, and a brief bibliography has been appended to each section. Taxonomic controversies are carefully noted. Don’t discard the earlier set, however; much of the anecdotal material in the original Grzimek set, deleted for space, remains valid and supplements the revised text well. Subsequent volumes, beginning with Amphibians (vol. 6) and Reptiles (vol. 7) will appear in 2003, while the 17th, a cumulative index, is scheduled for March 2004. $375 (Birds). Gale. ISBN 0-7876-6571-1.

Le Petit Larousse Illustre 2003, general editors Philippe Merlet and Anémone Berès (1,818 pages, October 2002), the ever-popular one-volume French reference classic, is now being distributed in the United States by Houghton Mifflin. Divided into two major sections—the first a standard dictionary and the
second an encyclopedia of people, places, and other proper nouns—this fact-packed, 90,000-entry compendium is a colorful aid for anyone learning the language or picking it up again years later. It includes hundreds of diagrams showing the component parts of such things as a horse, a water-treatment plant, a microphone, a cargo ship, and the fermentation of wine; numerous pictures of famous people; 290 maps; special multipage color sections on curiosities of the animal world, world festivals and holidays, the history of money, and Europe from antiquity to union; and a 48-page chronicle of world history. For French-language students, it offers a pronunciation guide, verb conjugation tables, rules for participles, noun plurals, and common prefixes and suffixes. Published annually. $39.95. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 2-03-530203-X.

Trilobites of New York: An Illustrated Guide, by Thomas E. Whiteley, Gerald J. Kloc, and Carlton E. Brett (203 pages + 175 plates, June 2002), surveys the diverse trilobite species found throughout New York State, an abundant source of many fossils of these marine arthropods that flourished between 520 to 280 million years ago. In addition to a taxonomic review, the authors examine trilobite biology, fossil preservation, and the Paleozoic strata of New York, and present more than 200 high-quality, black-and-white images of representative species. $55.00. Cornell University. ISBN 0-8014-3969-8.

Vending Machines: An American Social History, by Kerry Segrave (284 pages, October 2002), recounts the story of coin-operated automatic machines that dispense food, drink, products, or services. Supposedly invented by the Greek mathematician Hero, who in the 1st century A.D. described a drachma-operated device to sell holy water in Egyptian temples, true vending machines emerged in 1888 when Thomas Adams designed a machine to sell his Tutti-Frutti chewing gum on New York train platforms. Segrave follows the trends of cigarette, soft-drink, candy, and coffee vending to more exotic experiments as the Vend-a-Book, the Foot Ease Vitalizer, and the Perfumatic. One consistent thread in the book is the industry’s war on counterfeit coins and slugs. $36.50. McFarland. ISBN 0-7864-1369-7.

Wild Cats of the World, by Mel and Fiona Sunquist (452 pages, October 2002), is a comprehensive guide to the ecology, behavior, description, and distribution of the 36 known species of living felids. A major expansion of C. A. W. Guggisberg’s classic Wild Cats of the World (Taplinger, 1975), this volume also looks at each cat’s status in the wild and in captivity, conflicts with humans, and conservation efforts. Appendices examine feline olfactory and vocal communication and reproduction. Domestic cats are described following a section devoted to their close relatives, the European and African-Asian wildcats. $45.00. University of Chicago. ISBN 0-226-77999-8.

World War II on the Web, by J. Douglas Smith and Richard Jensen (207 pages, November 2002), examines the 100 best WWII Web sites and rates them for content, aesthetics, and ease of navigation. The reviews are well-balanced and note where improvements could be made or when ads are too intrusive. The primary section is divided into ten major subject areas, each with a helpful introduction and substantial bibliography; this is followed by a topical index of about 250 sites also “worth a visit.” An accompanying CD-ROM contains an Acrobat file of the entire book, complete with clickable links. $23.95. SR Books. ISBN 0-8420-5021-3.

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references, contact the European Commission on Preservation and Access, Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, GRIP editor-in-chief, Kloveniersburgwal 29, P.O. Box 19121, 1000 GC Amsterdam, the Netherlands; e-mail: grip@bureau.knaw.nl.)
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