

specialized niche in the fields of horticulture and landscape design. Very specific coverage on the history and design of gardens provides detailed information on both gardens and their designers. Three types of articles appear here: (1) explanations of the work of prominent landscape architects and garden designers; (2) histories and descriptions of specific gardens and overviews of gardening in many countries; and (3) material on the fundamental principles of garden design. People covered range from Frederick Law Olmstead and his family to Xi Yuan. Excellent chronologies of many important gardens from Kew (England) to Agra Fort (India) provide a wealth of interesting information. Although the editor admits to a Eurocentric slant because of the amount of data available, a number of excellent summaries on Eastern countries and their prominent gardens are found. The articles on principles of garden design cover diverse topics such as "herbaria," "ground cover," "knot gardens," and "gardenesque style." Most entries are from two to three pages long, although the "design fundamentals" write-up comprises twenty pages.

Each signed piece is accompanied by selected bibliographies containing both current and classic items, with an emphasis on the latter. The biographical sketches focus on areas designed, in interesting detail; the "biographies" are really lists of dates and relevant events and are definitely not comprehensive. A brief list of some of the person's major publications completes the coverage. In the garden summaries, a synopsis of the garden's history is included, with important dates highlighted; dates may span centuries and restorations are noted. Black-and-white illustrations are much sparser than would be expected in a work of this type, but many interesting old sketches and garden plans are presented, adding valuable detail. The color plates are poor, somewhat blurry, with garish colors, very badly chosen, and poorly referenced in the index. In this reviewer's copy, four color plates were upside down. Cross-referencing

is spotty, for example there is no "see also" reference to Linnaeus in the article on the "Uppsala University Botanic Garden." Indexing could also be improved; for example, in the article on *Stowe*, both Lord Cobham and Earl Temple are mentioned several times but Cobham's only index entry sends you elsewhere, and Earl Temple does not appear in the index at all. The entire table of contents is placed in each volume for easier consultation. A lengthy list of contributors appears in volume 3, with short descriptions of their qualifications.

Very specialized, recommended for those colleges and universities that have relevant majors.—*Marion S. Muskiewicz, Head, Public Services, University of Massachusetts Lowell*

Encyclopedia of Japanese Business and Management. Ed. by Allan Bird. London: Routledge, 2002. 500p. \$150 (ISBN 0-415-18945-4)

Given the dynamic nature of post-WWII Japanese business and the interest in Japanese business and management practices generated by the recent Heisei Boom and its subsequent bust, it is surprising the *Encyclopedia of Japanese Business and Management* did not appear sooner. As editor Allan Bird states, "There is no single source to which a person interested in Japanese business can turn to find out specific practices, learn about distinctive concepts, or identify key personalities or institutions. The *Encyclopedia of Japanese Business* is intended to address this deficiency" (xiii).

Prior to the release of the *Encyclopedia*, the excellent *MIT Encyclopedia of the Japanese Economy*, by Robert C. Hsu (MIT Pr., 2d ed., 1999), was the volume that came closest to filling this role. While there is some overlap between the two resources, each tends to remain true to its title. The MIT volume emphasizes economic themes, the *Encyclopedia* business and management; the works are complementary rather than redundant.

The focus of the *Encyclopedia* is on post-WWII Japanese business and management. The entries are arranged

and indexed alphabetically, but there is also a thematic index. Themes include finance, influential industries, influential social and business personalities, and marketing and distribution. Because the book is meant to appeal to both specialists and nonspecialists, the entries begin with a basic overview of the topic, then follow with more details. This approach facilitates both "ready reference" and in-depth use of the material. Bird has assembled a notable and geographically disparate group of contributors, each of whom tackles subjects within her or his area of expertise. The entries are well-written and often fascinating, a step up from the dry material often found in business encyclopedias.

One of the most appealing aspects of the *Encyclopedia* is the attention paid to placing Japanese business and management in historical and cultural context. Articles on Tokugawa Japan and Japanese Guilds are obvious examples, but the theme runs throughout the volume. The strength of the convenience store (*konbini*) industry, for example, is shown both as a reflection of a culture that prefers fresh food and needs to conserve household space, and as a cultural influence on teenagers.

The volume does have some weaknesses. One could quibble about the entry choices; for example, a colleague was perplexed by the absence of *poka-yoke*, a quality assurance technique. Other issues are less subjective. More consistent references for "further reading" would have been helpful; while the majority of entries have a "further reading" list, many have none. Also notable is the absence of an "Information Resources" bibliography or article. Frequently, entries quote statistics without citing their source. An entry on information resources or even a short bibliography of information sources would assist readers in finding updated statistics and pursuing more in-depth information.

These issues aside, the *Encyclopedia of Japanese Business and Management* largely achieves its goals. The

volume fills a gap in English-language Japanese business literature and does so in a manner accessible to both specialists and nonspecialists. The volume is strongly recommended for libraries with a collection emphasis on Japanese/Asian business and recommended for business collections in general. Moreover, because the *Encyclopedia* emphasizes the broader context of Japanese business and management, the volume should be considered for general reference collections in research libraries.—James Galbraith, *Electronic Services and Reference Librarian, Business and Economics Library, Columbia University, New York*

Encyclopedia of Prehistory. By David Lambert. New York: Facts On File, 2002. 400p. acid free \$60.50 (ISBN 0-8160-4547-X).

Encyclopedia of Prehistory, described in its introduction as a “thematic encyclopedia,” covers an ambitious range of topics in one volume. Four sections cover: (1) the geologic origins of the earth; (2) the evolution of life; (3) dinosaurs; and (4) early humans. Read cover to cover, it serves as a history of the formation of the earth and the evolution of life.

Due to the textbook-like arrangement, the user must exercise some patience when looking for information on “trilobites” or “Neandertals,” as this is not a standard alphabetically arranged encyclopedia. However, the excellent index will guide the reader to the appropriate pages. Although one could use this book to search specific subjects such as these, the real usefulness of this source lies in its coverage of broader topics. For instance, within the first section, “The Evolving Earth,” a ten-page subsection titled “The Restless Crust” provides an excellent introduction to the processes that shaped and continue to reshape the earth’s crust.

According to the introduction, *Encyclopedia of Prehistory* “specializes in the integration of visual forms of information with concise and clear text.” The format is very much like that of a field guide; illustrations, dia-

grams, tables, and maps dominate each page. The artwork is of a high quality and illustrates geologic processes, early life forms, dinosaurs and human evolution, and the work of paleontologists and archaeologists. A “Further Reference” section supplements the main text with lists of selected books and Web sites, prominent museums for each of the four main subject areas, and a list of leading scientists.

Encyclopedia of Prehistory would be an excellent addition to public library reference collections. The excellent illustrations and accessible text could also benefit high school collections. For academic libraries, this “all-in-one” kind of reference work would have to be supplemented by more specialized works in geology, paleontology, and prehistoric peoples, such as the similarly titled *Encyclopedia of Prehistory* (Kluwer, 2001), a seven-volume work on prehistoric peoples, and the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Paleontology* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 1999).—Peter Bliss, *Reference Librarian, University of California, Riverside*

Encyclopedia of Public Health. Ed. by Lester Breslow. New York: Macmillan, 2002. 4 vols. alkaline \$475 (ISBN 0-02-865354-8).

The introduction of this encyclopedia defines the term public health as “. . . the activities of a society that protect and advance the health of its people” (ix). This definition includes “a set of scientific disciplines, practical skills, and beliefs (values) that are directed to the maintenance and improvement of people’s health through collective or social actions; as well as the political will that is necessary to mobilize resources and people in support of the agencies that carry out the activities” (ix). The more than 900 entries in this four-volume set describe the vast realm of public health: laboratory and statistical tests, disease prevention, environmental and occupational safety, legislative acts, and the organizations that are charged with protecting and improving the public’s health.

The articles were written by experts for a general audience. Jargon and technical terms are explained and the charts, tables, and figures that support the text are clear and simple. Besides the usual index and annotated bibliography, the editors also provide an outline showing how the alphabetically arranged entries relate to one another. Also included in the appendix are the texts of a variety of documents related to public health. These range from the “Oath of Hippocrates” to the “World Scientists’ Warning to Humanity.”

This encyclopedia fills a need. A search of WorldCat for the subject “public health—encyclopedias” found eight items. One is the resource being reviewed. Three are foreign language publications. One is Rodale’s *Encyclopedia of Healthful Living* from 1966. The sixth is a volume from the *Macmillan Health Encyclopedia* (Macmillan, 1999) that looks at health from an individual’s point of view. *Health Issues* by Irons-Georges (Salem, 2001) does not adequately address the entire public health discipline—it does not even have an entry on epidemiology. I could not obtain a copy of the last publication, *Safety and Environmental Health* (Macmillan, 1993), for comparison purposes. The title leads me to suspect that it focuses on two aspects of public health, not the full sweep of the discipline.

I highly recommend *Encyclopedia of Public Health* for academic libraries whose institutions offer courses in public health and for larger public libraries. The information contained within will be useful to many library patrons, not just those in public health.—Robin N. Sinn, *Head Librarian, Ogg Science Library, Bowling Green State University, Ohio*

Food Safety Information Handbook. By Cynthia A. Roberts. Westport, Conn.: Oryx Pr., 2002. 312p. \$52.50 (ISBN 1-57356-305-6).

Food safety is not a new discipline, but it has certainly come to the fore in the media with worldwide outbreaks of mad cow disease and E.