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Book Review. Encyclopedia of Asian History

Jo Bell Whitlatch

San Jose State University, jobell.whitlatch@sjsu.edu

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Whether the group recognizes "pairing" in agreement by two members on opposite sides of a given issue to refrain from voting on that issue).

Individual entries include a brief biography of each member (the addition of names served in Congress and/or the Senate would have been useful) and a list of voting scores and ratings. Biographic sketches give birth date, religion, education, occupation, military service (if applicable), political background prior to entering Congress, and election records. An appendix lists members of Congress and Senate by state from the eightieth Congress (1947-49) through the eighty-ninth (1985-87). Typography in the introduction, body of the work, and appendix is clear and easy to read.

Unlike other voting record compilations, the *Directory of Congressional Voting Records and Interest Group Ratings* is a subject work where judgments have been made by the various groups providing the ratings. Although the cost may deter some small libraries from purchasing it, this *Directory* is essential for academic and public libraries and will enhance collections dealing with public affairs. High school librarians might also wish to consider the directory as an acquisition.—*Sue Kam, Library Consultant, Los Angeles, California.*

Covering Nature with Young People: An Annotated Bibliography and Selection Guide. Comp. by Carolyn M. Johnson. New York: Greenwood, 1987. 495p. \$49.95 (ISBN 0-313-23823-5). LC 87-697.

This bibliography of science materials will be an invaluable resource for persons who work with children: librarians, teachers, parents, youth group and camp program directors. It is far more extensive and comprehensive than other science sections aids, such as *The Museum of Science Industry Basic List of Children's Science Books, 1973-1984* (ALA, 1985) and Andy Saul's fine *Science Fare: An Illustrated Guide and Catalog of Toys, Books, and Activities for Kids* (Harper, 1986).

Johnson's work lists fiction and nonfiction books and media for all ages through the early years of college but concentrates on materials for use by and with young children ages eight to sixteen. Many materi-

als are seldom found cited in other sources: educational, recreational, and travel programs; organizations and associations; contests and awards; activity books; calendars; coloring books; designs, patterns, and stencils; and computer programs. It even includes periodical articles and book chapters on nature.

Unlike most science bibliographies, which emphasize the scientific approach, this one primarily attempts to provide "educational and enjoyable experiences for young people exploring nature." Items are briefly annotated and are listed by type and format, with materials for educators and parents listed separately from those for children. It is not clear how the items were chosen or the years covered, but the selection is far more extensive than in other science bibliographies. Prolific authors are represented by only a few books; it is suggested that other books by these authors should be examined. The appendixes include an example of a pathfinder, a publishers/producers/distributors code list, and additional significant items that were located too late to include in the main body of the book. There are four indexes: authors, compilers, composers, and illustrators; titles; subjects; and types of media items.

Although the book is expensive, it is recommended for any library serving science students and educators.—*Marilyn H. Karenbrock, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.*

Encyclopedia of Asian History. Prep. under the auspices of the Asia Society. Ed. by Ainslie T. Embree. New York: Scribner, 1988. 4v. \$325 (ISBN 0-684-18619-5).

The *Encyclopedia*, intended to make the highest level of contemporary scholarship on Asia available to a nonspecialist audience, focuses on topics dealing with political, social, intellectual, and economic movements that have produced Asian civilizations. The geographic areas covered are Iran and Central Asia, China, Japan, Korea, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. More than 160 photographs, line drawings, and illustrations, as well as 63 maps supplement the text.

Articles vary in length, depending upon

the importance of the topic. All articles were prepared by scholars and are signed. Most include references that permit readers to pursue topics of interest in more depth. These references are confined to English-language works likely to be accessible to the nonspecialist. Journal articles are cited mainly when books of equal value do not exist.

The final volume includes several specialized lists and indexes. A topical outline provides a conceptual overview of topics covered. A detailed subject index and an extensive system of cross-references within each article enhances the value of the work.

The editors are sensitive to the difficulty of transliterating many words from Asian languages. As a result, the *Encyclopedia's* system conforms with that used in scholarly works and modern history. For Chinese words, the Pinyin rather than the Wade-Giles system of transliteration is used. To assist the nonspecialist, the *Encyclopedia* includes a Wade-Giles/Pinyin conversion table. The editors have generally included cross-references from the Wade-Giles form, if well known, to the Pinyin form. However, cross-references should have been edited with more care, because there is no reference from Chou Enlai to Zhou Enlai. Nonspecialists, for whom this work is intended, might well conclude that this major twentieth-century Chinese statesman is not included in the *Encyclopedia*!

This is an excellent, very authoritative encyclopedia on Asian civilization. It will be invaluable in reference work and helpful, as well, to students beginning research on Asian topics.—*Jo Bell Whitlatch, Associate Library Director, Access and Bibliographic Services, San Jose State University, California.*

Federal Public Policy on Aging since 1960: An Annotated Bibliography. Comp. by William E. Oriol. New York: Greenwood, 1987. 127p. Bibliographies and Indexes in Gerontology, no.5. \$35. (ISBN 0-313-25286-6). LC 87-8343.

This is the fifth bibliographic guide on aspects of aging published by Greenwood Press. Oriol's bibliography cites representative literature, selected from among the vast quantity of material produced from 1960 through 1986. The compiler