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ISAR is an important resource for American Studies; Tim Miller tells about an important product of its work. **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN RELIGIONS**. Edited by J. Gordon Melton. Detroit: Gale Research, 1987, \$165.00. The Institute for the Study of American Religion, headed by J. Gordon Melton, the editor and author of this impressive tome, is devoted to the daunting task of documenting all of American religion. Since the larger and better-established religions tend to maintain archives of their own, ISAR has concentrated especially on the marginal groups: the ephemeral, the small, the odd, the underrecognized. After nearly a quarter century of accumulation, ISAR's resources are second to none, and this book demonstrates that.

*The Encyclopedia of American Religions* brings together basic information on all of the major and hundreds of the minor American religions. The volume is organized by "families" (ranging from the Western Liturgical family, including Catholicism and Episcopalianism, to such families as "Ancient Wisdom" and "Magick").


Part I provides introductory essays and bibliographical resources for each of the twenty-two families; the far longer Part II is a directory which provides a few paragraphs of background on each group plus listings of numbers of members, publications, educational facilities and the like. Multiple indices help make the work accessible.

This reference volume deserves a place in virtually every school and public library.

News of two massive research/reference projects reaches us from Chadwyck-Healey Inc. The first is the **CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS IN THE HOUGHTON LIBRARY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY** in eight royal quarto volumes (Alexandria, Virginia, 1986). The catalogue is \$1600; the catalogue plus inventory, \$2300. This is a most useful tool for Americanists, of course, because of the Houghton's powerful collections on important nineteenth-century New England historical figures and on major authors.

Then there is the **NATIONAL INVEN-**

**TORY OF DOCUMENTARY SOURCES**. It is divided into several parts—the first covers Federal Records (The National Archives, The Smithsonian Institution Archives and the several presidential libraries (1600 microfiche with printed index, \$3950); the second, the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress (900 microfiche with printed index, \$2750); the third, state archives, libraries and historical societies,

<b>DAILY TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE</b>	
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VIRGINIA, NEVADA, SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1874.	
<p><b>SAD FATE OF AN INVENTOR</b></p> <p>A gentleman who has just arrived from the borax fields of the desert regions surrounding the town of Columbus in the eastern part of this state, gives us the following account of the sad fate of Mr. Jonathan Newhouse, a man of considerable inventive genius. Mr. Newhouse had built what he called a "solar armor," a device designed to protect the wearer from the fierce heat of the sun in crossing deserts and burning alkali plains. The armor was made of a long close-fitting jacket made of common sponge and a cap or hood made of the same material; both jacket and hood being about an inch in thickness. Before starting across a desert this armor was to be soaked with water. Under the right arm was hung an India rubber sack filled with water with a small ... tube leading to the top of the hood. In order to keep the armor moist, all that was necessary to be done by the traveler, as he walked over the burning sands, was to press the sack occasionally. A small quantity of water would be forced up and thoroughly saturate the hood and the jacket below it.</p> <p>Thus, by the evaporation of the moisture in the armor... might be produced almost any degree of cold. Mr. Newhouse went down to Death Valley, to try the experiment of crossing that terrible place in his armor. He started out into the valley one morning from the camp nearest its borders, telling the men at the camp, as they laced his armor on his back, that he</p>	<p>would be back in two days. The next day an Indian who could speak but a few words of English came to the camp in a great state of excitement. He made the men understand that he wanted them to follow him. At the distance of about twenty miles out into the desert the Indian pointed to a human figure seated against a rock. Approaching, they found it to be Newhouse still in his armor. He was dead and frozen stiff. His beard was covered with frost and—though the noonday sun poured down its fiercest rays—an icicle over a foot in length hung from his nose. There he had died miserably, because his armor had worked but too well, and because it was laced up behind where he could not reach the fastenings.</p>
	

A tall tale, from *What Time Is This Place?* See p. 120.

## MY CHRONOLOGY

I WAS BORN IN PEDRIA	1970	MY FAMILY MOVED TO CHICAGO WE BOUGHT A HOUSE
	1971	
MY TWIN SISTERS WERE BORN	1972	I GOT FRECKLES THE PUP FOR CHRISTMAS
THE HOUSE CAUGHT FIRE RODE FIRST PONY AT ZOO	1973	
MY PARENTS WERE DIVORCED	1974	I MOVED TO LIVE WITH GRANDMA JONES
MY FIRST DAY AT KINDERGARTEN	1975	I FLEW TO MEYILD FOR A MONTH
MRS. EGLY WAS MY FIRST GRADE TEACHER	1976	MY HALLOWEEN PARTY
MOM REMARRIED	1977	I LEARNED TO SKI
I JOINED A SCOUT TROOP IN BAKERSFIELD	1978	BROKE MY ARM
FRECKLES DIED GOT MY 10-SPEED BIKE	1979	GOT MY FIRST PAPER ROUTE

From a section of *What Time Is This Place?* which guides young readers to look at their personal histories. See p. 120.

published as microfiche and indices in units of \$1000 per unit; and the fourth, academic libraries and miscellaneous repositories, also sold unit by unit.

The publishers would like us to run an extensive description and evaluation of this material, something it is probably inappropriate for us to do given the mission of this journal. We are pleased, however, to alert readers to the fact that major libraries will shortly have these immensely useful materials, which, in the perfectly reasonable words of the publishers' blurb, should provide "for scholars in search of documentary sources something similar to what the publication of the National Union Catalogue has done for scholars looking for published materials." They will certainly make life easier for many of us who work with original documents; more important, they will make it less likely that we will remain unaware of the existence of something important.

Robert Oppenheimer comments on two collections on Chicano topics: *WAR OF WORDS: Chicano Protest in the 1960's and 1970's*. By John C. Hammerback, Richard J. Jensen and Jose Angel Gutierrez. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985, \$29.95. The authors present an analysis of the speeches of four leaders of the Chicano protest movement of the

1960's and 1970's, Cesar Chavez, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez, Jose Angel Gutierrez and Reies Lopez Tijerina. There is also an essay by Gutierrez on other less radical leaders of the time.

The essays clearly demonstrate the Chicano leaders' articulation of the ideology, desires and needs of each of the movements. The authors compare and contrast the rhetoric of the leaders, their background, use of language and ability to present the demands of their constituents. The rhetoric presents the individual ideals and goals of each movement as a separate entity. For example, Gonzalez deals with urban poor Chicanos, Chavez with farm workers and Tijerina with demands for acceptance of Spanish and of colonial Spanish land grants in New Mexico. This aspect of the volume is well researched and presented.

However, the essays lack any real cohesiveness or conclusion. There is little or no attempt to compare and contrast the movements these leaders represented, no attempt to link the movements to other civil rights activism of the time (Blacks, Native Americans and women) or the anti-Vietnam War movement. The most important omission is discussion of the impact of the protests of the 1960's and 1970's on present day Chicano politics and radicalism, especially the impact of the leadership and the dialogue. As