nation of hydrogen and chlorine is produced here by the electrolysis of hydrochloric acid. Unusual, important demonstrations involve a chemiluminescent clock reaction, various primary and secondary cells, a concentration cell, metallic crystals, a chemical rectifier, and electrodeposition of sodium through glass. For convenience, the volumes are cross-referenced; this volume contains two references to demonstrations in earlier volumes. For the first time a detailed (11 pages, two columns per page) cumulative index for Volumes 1–4 is included with entries for topics, chemicals, popular names of demonstrations, and key words. The book is virtually free of errors.

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Biographies of Scientists for Sci-Tech Libraries
Adding Faces to the Facts

Tony Stankus, Editor. Haworth: New York, NY, 1992. xi + 228 pp. 15.1 x 21.5 cm. 3 Figs. $29.95.

According to Dena Rae Thomas, one of 16 librarians who contributed to this collection of “biobibliographical essays,” fewer students in the United States are choosing to pursue graduate studies or careers in science. Some exploration of scientists’ lives might inspire individual students to follow any leanings toward science they may have. The biographies described here were chosen because they attempt to show the reader the whole personality of the biographee including contributions made to his/her field. Editor-contributor Tony Stankus, Science Librarian of the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, hopes that his guide to biographies of scientists from a variety of fields also will serve to shatter the stereotypes of scientists’ lives as “monomaniacal, but otherwise uninteresting.” His volume differs from most collections of biographies in that its primary purpose is to identify books, articles, and dissertations (through 1990) that will provide sci-librarians and students with insights into the variety and drama of the lives of these men and women beyond their more well-known contributions and Nobel Prize accomplishments as well as an appreciation of science as a broadly based, creative experience.

As would be expected for a compendium with contributions from multiple authors, the individual essays vary in format, style, and content, and the descriptions accompanying the entries range from a line or two to a page or more. Among the scientists (mostly 19th century and contemporary, some still living) profiled are 16 mathematicians, 16 physicists, 10 chemists, 10 geologists, 10 animal scientists, 6 plant breeders and plant geneticists, and 10 discoverers of medical techniques and creators of inventions. Also included are a guide to the literature on pioneers in computing, an overview and bibliography of spectra and spectroscopy, an annotated bibliography of new reference works in science and technology (in small print), and a description of sci-tech online.

Unfortunately, this up-to-date volume shows signs of inadequate proofreading; for example, six misspellings or “typos” occur in Stankus’ seven-page introduction alone. Also, he erroneously attributes Wöhler’s quotation, “I can no longer, as it were, hold back my chemical urine. I can make urea without a kidney, whether of man or of a dog” (p 6) to his published communication rather than to Wöhler’s letter of February 22, 1828, to his mentor Berzelius. Furthermore, Thomas’ quotation cited above is attributed to the introduction of her essay, yet it does not appear there.

These minor shortcomings notwithstanding, I am pleased to recommend this excellent resource guide to fascinating scientific biographies, selected for their humor and human insights, both to sci-tech librarians and to teachers of students, who, with the proper encouragement, inspiration, and understanding, may become our future scientists.

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