Book Review. Companion to Chinese History

Jo Bell Whitlatch
San Jose State University, jobell.whitlatch@sjsu.edu

Recommended Citation
Baldwin has taken the records of 111 schools that compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division I-A, and the Ivy League (the latter, officially classed as Division I-AA, did not organize officially until 1956) and compiled records against conferences, Division I-A opponents, and others, including so-called small colleges, clubs, and service teams. Schools are listed alphabetically within their conferences; independent schools are listed alphabetically following the conferences. Each entry names the school, nickname, colors, location, stadium and seating capacity, first year of football, first year in the conference, and number of conference championships won. Records show the named school first, e.g., California's record against Stanford under the Golden Bears' listing is 36-41-10. Each entry concludes with the total records overall, within the conference, and in bowl games. At the beginning of each conference section, Baldwin notes the date it was founded, charter members, and any former members; overall and conference records by teams; the number of times each school has been conference champions; and a chronological list of past champions. The appendixes list best Division I-A overall records; best bowl game records; most bowl game appearances; Division I-A conference bowl game records; longest Division I rivalries (Lafayette and Lehigh—Division I-AA teams—have been meeting for more than 120 years); and Division I-AA teams.

College Football Records does not contain individual achievements, either by players or coaches. Records are not broken down by year, as they are in Douglas F. Elerston's Major College Football Results, 1957 to 1981 (Opus Associates, 1982). Perhaps Sporting News will begin issuing guides to college football similar to those for professional football and basketball. There are some minor errors: the conference Baldwin lists as the Pacific Coast Conference is the Pacific Coast Athletic Association (the old PCC is now the Pac-10); and, although the school now properly known as California State University, Northridge, was never known as "Los Angeles State," California State University, Northridge, was indeed called "Los Angeles State," California State University, Northridge, was never known as "Los Angeles State."—Sue Kanum, Reference Librarian, Library Management Systems, Los Angeles.


Companion to Chinese History provides basic information on the most common popular topics for Chinese civilization, from prehistory to the mid-1980s. The book is designed to supplement beginning Chinese history texts and to serve as a resource for people desiring a quick introduction to China. For those who want to learn more, O'Neill provides references at the end of each of the articles. These references list many of the classic English-language works on Chinese civilization and permit the reader to pursue topics in greater depth.

Approximately 1,000 entries are arranged in alphabetical order, from Abacus to Zhejiang. The handbook also has a considerable number of cross-references; however, the lack of a comprehensive index limits the usefulness of the work for quick reference. For example, there are no references from the common English-language translations of the well-known popular novels, The Golden Lotus and All Men Are Brothers, to entries under their Chinese names, Chin Ping Mei and Shui Hu Chuan. On the plus side, the volume contains a number of useful features, including chronology of Western contact with China, maps from different historical periods, and information on the traditional Chinese calendar.

Comparable in purpose to the Companion is the Directory of Chinese History by Michael Dillon (Cass, 1979), which provides basic coverage of China from prehistoric times to 1977. The bookends by O'Neill and Dillon complement each other, because each contains a number of unique terms.—Jo Bell Whitelatch, Associate Library Director, Access and Bibliographic Services, San Jose State University, California.