

CHOICE

R E V I E W S O N L I N E

Bryan Rennie's edited volume, *The International Eliade* (Albany, NY: The State University of New York Press, 2007) received a *Choice* award from the American Library Association. It was listed among the "Outstanding Academic Titles" of 2008. Every year the subject editors of *Choice* magazine, a publication of the American Library Association, single out for recognition the most significant print and electronic works reviewed in *Choice* during the previous calendar year. Appearing annually in the January issue, this prestigious list of publications reflects the best in scholarly titles and attracts particular attention from the academic library community. The 2008 feature includes 679 titles in 54 disciplines and subsections. Rennie's book is one of 25 works on religion. The list is quite selective: containing approximately ten percent of some 6,600 works reviewed. The editors apply several criteria to reviewed titles, including overall excellence in presentation and scholarship, importance relative to other literature in the field, originality and uniqueness of treatment, value to undergraduate students, and importance in building undergraduate library collections.

HUMANITIES Religion

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The *International Eliade*, ed. by Bryan Rennie. State University of New York, 2007. 318p bibl indexes afp; ISBN 9780791470879, \$70.00

Edited volumes are often uneven and poorly organized. Nor are the articles necessarily new and cogent. Such is not the case with Rennie's scintillating and remarkable collection of articles on Eliade. It is a most welcome set of scholarly responses to the life and work of this great phenomenologist of religion. Some articles are highly critical; others are full of praise for this often controversial founding figure in the field of religious studies. Most important, this collection sets Eliade on the international stage, defining his appeal and influence outside the United States. Contributors in a variety of disciplines raise profound and significant issues about Eliade's methodology and the very core concepts at the heart of his analysis of the category of the sacred. This very well-written and well-edited volume will stimulate many scholars to reconsider Eliade's work in the light of current insights into the nature of religious experience. It will be particularly useful for scholars in religious studies, anthropology, philosophy, and theology. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-level undergraduates and above; general readers.-J. J. Preston, *Sonoma State University*

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I was not a little surprised by the award, and genuinely honored to be included in so impressive a list of publications in the company of authors such as [Seyyed Hossein Nasr](#) of George Washington University, the renowned philosopher, [Charles Taylor](#), and [Theodore Ziolkowski](#), the Princeton professor emeritus.