

**THIRTY-FIVE ORIENTAL PHILOSOPHERS, by Diané Collinson and Robert Wilkinson.**

London and New York: Routledge, 1994. 205 pages. \$65.00

This sound but pricey reference work contains encyclopedia-like summaries of the thought of 35 "philosophers" (mostly religious figures) of Islam, India, Tibet, China and Japan; oddly, Zoroaster is tacked onto the Introduction. The generalist authors are not overly worried by problems of definition, classification, or intellectual history: their goal is "to give the interested reader basic information." Entries include brief notes and bibliographies, often referring to aging general works, with occasional use of thoughtful scholarship of the 1970s and 1980s. The contents of entries can only be termed "traditional": efforts at new insights (philosophical or otherwise) are rare. Some will be disappointed by the pervasive orientalism, seen, e.g., in the selection of the usual cast of "Great Thinkers of the East." Though seldom truly illuminating, this work is generally competent and will serve the general reader fairly well.

**Russell Kirkland, University of Georgia**

**Athens, GA 30602**