

## SOURCES

wider historical context. The glossary at the end of each volume provides brief descriptions of personalities, record labels, and important musical titles. The reference guide or bibliography in each volume is extensive. In addition, each volume's index is thorough and includes cross references.

Because of this set's comprehensiveness, it is difficult to compare it with other reference books on the subject. The most recent competing volume is *Rolling Stone: The Decades of Rock & Roll* (Chronicle Bks. 2001). This single-volume work is similarly divided into five parts (1950s to 1990s), but each article focuses on a specific performer or recording and is written by a different author. *Jazz-Rock: A History* by Stuart Nicholson (Canongate, 1998), *Rock and Roll: A Social History* by Paul Friedlander (Westview, 1996), and *Rock & Roll: An Unruly History* by Robert Palmer (Harmony, 1995) are single-volume textbook treatments of the topic. *The Story of Rock 'n' Roll: The Year-by-Year Illustrated Chronicle* (Schirmer Bks., 1995) is arranged by decade in a single volume with a lavish number of full-color photos. Another *Rolling Stone* title is *The Rolling Stone Illustrated History of Rock and Roll* (Random, 1992). However, unlike the 2001 title, this one is a collection of nearly one hundred articles by various authors, arranged in a narrative format. Finally, the *Encyclopedia of Rock* (Crescent Bks., 1983) is lavishly illustrated with color photos, but is now twenty-three years out-of-date.

Because of its thoroughness and scholarly approach, *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History* is an indispensable set that should be placed in the collections of all public libraries and in academic libraries serving music programs.—Mark Palkovic, Head Librarian, College-Conservatory of Music Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio

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**Immigration in U.S. History.** Ed. by Carl L. Bankston, Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo, and R. Kent Rasmussen. Magill's Choice. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$114 (ISBN 1-58765-266-8).

This two-volume set explores immigration in America from the seventeenth century to the present. To make the case for the importance of the topic, the introduction notes that the vast majority of current U.S. residents are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, which makes immigration a large part of the narrative of American history. The essays cover general and specific topics (such as picture brides and the bracero program), significant laws and court cases, prominent individuals, and summaries of the experiences of particular ethnic groups in the United States.

Arranged alphabetically, the 193 essays offer thoughtful, concise overviews that are easy to understand. They contain many features that enhance their usefulness to a general audience. "Significance boxes" highlight and summarize the importance of a particular article. "See also" references help readers discover related information in other essays in the set, while a "Further Reading" section provides a selective bibliography. The set is decently, if not lavishly, illustrated with graphs, charts, and black-and-white photographs. Access is

facilitated through several specialized indexes of court cases, laws and treaties, persons, subjects, and a category index that groups related articles under broad topics or ethnic groups (for example, "Chinese Immigrants").

The work does not contain the usual statement outlining the goals of the editors, nor does it make any claims to fill a gap in the current reference literature. These omissions are likely due to the substantial overlap with existing resources. Almost all the articles in this set originally appeared in the following Salem publications: *Racial and Ethnic Relations in America* (1999), *Encyclopedia of Family Life* (1999), *Great Events from History: North American Series* (1997), *Great Events from History II: Human Rights* (1992), *Women's Issues* (1997), *Magill's Legal Guide* (1999), *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court* (2001), *Identities and Issues in Literature* (1997), *Criminal Justice* (2005), *American Justice* (1996), *The Bill of Rights* (2002), and *Survey of Social Science: Sociology* (1994). Articles from these works have been updated as necessary. Only two articles are completely new, those on "African Immigrants" and "September 11 Attacks."

In spite of the obvious duplication, there is some value in having the immigration-related content pulled from many publications and collected in a single thematic set. Readers can easily make connections between concepts using the cross-references provided, and can quickly get a sense of the range of immigration issues by scanning the contents. Immigration-related material that may be subsumed in a broader work is here made prominent. In spite of these benefits, libraries owning most of the original works will have to carefully weigh the cost against tight budgets. Given its clear language and ease of use, this would be an especially valuable addition for public and school libraries lacking the original publications.—Eric Novotny, Humanities Librarian, Penn State University Libraries, University Park, Pennsylvania

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**The Lincoln Library of Greek and Roman Mythology.** Ed. by Timothy Gall and Susan Gall. Cleveland, Ohio: Lincoln Library Pr., 2006. 5 vols. acid free \$199 (ISBN 0-912168-21-8).

Filled with more information and features than one usually finds in a specialized dictionary or encyclopedia for middle- and high-school students, this five-volume work contains five hundred alphabetical entries on the gods, goddesses, heroes, places, and other important aspects of Greek and Roman mythology. The text contains short, lively sentences and is printed using a large, clean typeface with plenty of white space. The four hundred or so illustrations—line drawings; graphic novel-type artwork; color photographs of art, maps, and "added information" boxes—generally have captions that serve to expand and enhance the text.

Each of the entries begins with the title in bold type, the word in Greek (if appropriate), and a pronunciation guide. Typically, the gender, culture, and main attributes of the character or person are displayed, followed by a brief (three to five sentences) summary of important points. Longer entries, varying in length from two to seven pages, have cross

references as well as easy-to-find sections on the family (lineage), depiction in art, appearance in literature, occurrence in space (helpful for constellations and asteroids), how the name is used in modern times, and a section providing references to classic works. Longer entries also have a short self-check true/false test so that readers can check their comprehension.

Each volume includes a list of Greek gods and heroes and their Roman counterparts, the Greek alphabet with English equivalents, and a very small map (without compass rose or scale) of the ancient world. Six short plays that can be produced or read in the classroom are presented. The final volume contains a "Table of Associations" that links names of gods and heroes with the concepts, words, and phrases with which they are associated. There is also a "Table of Word Origins" and a "subject index" to the entire work. These features greatly enhance the usefulness of the work. Unfortunately, there are no guide words on the pages and the light brown or sepia tone used to highlight some of the text is difficult to read in library light.

Neither Kathleen Daly's single volume *Greek and Roman Mythology A to Z* (Facts On File, 2003), which contains short entries on about five hundred topics, nor David Lemming's *The Children's Dictionary of Mythology* (Franklin Watts, 1999), which has more than three hundred entries on mythology from various cultures, have the depth or added features of this work. It has found a niche somewhere between the one-volume works mentioned above and the multivolume (and pricey) *Gods, Goddesses, and Mythology* (Marshall Cavendish, 2005), which is not restricted to just the Greek and Romans. In terms of both usefulness and value, *The Lincoln Library of Greek and Roman Mythology* is superior. Recommended for school and public libraries where patrons do reports on mythology.—Dona J. Helmer, Librarian, Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska

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***Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia.*** Ed. by Josef W. Meri. New York: Routledge, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$350 (ISBN 0-415-96690-6).

With *Medieval Islamic Civilization*, the editors hope to fill what they see as a lack of a "single reference work that presents Islamic civilization in a manner intelligible to the nonspecialist" (xi). With this two-volume set, the latest in a series of Middle Ages-focused encyclopedias from Routledge, they have created a thorough and accessible reference tool for general inquiries on the topic.

There are numerous titles in existence on the topic of Islam during medieval times, but the great majority of them focus on politics and philosophy. With this general work, the editors cover more than five hundred topics, including concepts and ideas, people, geographic locations, and other items. For a work produced by more than 250 people, the entries are uniformly excellent. The editors have aimed for dispassionate writing, and that goal is achieved without having the entries become dull. Besides being devoid of subjectivity, the entries are also written in a straightforward and accessible manner, and the contributors attempt to explain concepts in the simplest terms possible.

The entries are alphabetical, ranging in length from a half-page for lesser personalities to several pages for entries on topics such as judges, the Qur'an, or political theory. A great deal of thought seems to have gone into the many cross references, and while illustrations are not plentiful, those included are useful. Each volume includes a list of entries arranged both alphabetically and thematically, and the introduction appears in both volumes. The index is extensive and extremely thorough, coming in at fifty-five pages in length. Index topics that have their own entries are italicized, while others have any page numbers listed in which that topic is mentioned. This extensive index should prove valuable to those searching for subjects that are not given their own entry in this work.

The user most likely to make use of this title is the generalist, one whose grasp of the topic is limited and to whom the articles are clearly targeted. For those cases where these entries may be insufficient, or in the case of someone who would like to read further on a given topic, the editors have provided helpful tools. Most entries include extensive "Further Reading" lists, and many include "Studies" lists as well. For those topics where the author has culled the entry from others' research, a list of primary sources is included.

While those familiar with Islamic studies may find little need for this reference work, *Medieval Islamic Civilization* will be useful for the general library patron. This work would best be utilized by students in secondary school or college libraries, and by patrons at medium- and large-sized public libraries. This is a well-rounded, well-written set that offers a good starting point for library patrons.—Craig Shufelt, Director, Fort McMurray Public Library, Alberta, Canada

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***The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature.*** Ed. by David Scott Kastan. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2006. 5 vols. acid free \$595 (ISBN 0-19-516921-2).

The best reference books fulfill a unique and necessary purpose, giving good value for the dollar. Margaret Drabble's *The Oxford Companion to English Literature* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2000) is a companionable, comprehensive, and inexpensive single volume. Ian Scott-Kilvert's *British Writers* (Scribner, 1984) is magisterial, exploring the traditional and evolving literary canon in lengthy essays on individual authors. Although expensive, the work effectively manages the subject in a core set of volumes with supplements. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature* can be compared to these and to other established reference titles in English literature.

In approximately 500 signed essays, *The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature* attempts to reflect the "great range and depth" of the literature of the UK and the Republic of Ireland since Anglo-Saxon times. The set's organizers observe that British literature "still remains at the heart of the commitment to the humanities in English-speaking countries, not least the United States" (xi). Questions about depth, completeness, and balance naturally arise, and the preface is quick to mention that topic selections "no doubt reflect" the organizers' own "knowledge, interests, and judgments" (xi). Unlike Drabble's *The Oxford Companion to English Literature*,