

SOURCES

The second section contains the real heart of this work, more than fifty primary source documents. This section contains everything from the Mayflower Compact to the words to “Over the River and Through the Wood” to a poem by contemporary children’s author Jack Prelutsky. The documents are organized by ten broad historical time periods, including First Thanksgiving, Revolutionary Period, and Modern Times, and there is also a section on Native American perspectives on Thanksgiving. All documents have source notes or citations.

The final section of this work contains recipes ranging from appetizers to leftovers. There are instructions on how to handle and cook a turkey, prepare a turducken (a turkey stuffed with a duck stuffed with a chicken), and make desserts and drinks. This section does not have any source notes or discussion of the history (or rationale) of the recipes which is a little frustrating when one is looking for an “authentic” recipe.

The work also contains a helpful chronology, a bibliography, lists of photo and illustration credits, and an index that is essential if you need to find out about dispersed topics such as cranberries, which are mentioned in several sections of the book. The book is illustrated in black and white with small, muddy photographs or reproductions of artwork that do not really enhance the text.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Holidays (U*X*L, 2000) is also designed for the general reader and deals with celebrations of specific holidays such as Christmas and Thanksgiving, but it does not have the wealth of primary source documents and extensive recipes. *The Thanksgiving Book* work pulls together information from many sources and provides helpful, quick access to primary source materials on many related topics that are not covered thoroughly elsewhere. Recommended for middle school through community college libraries and public libraries that need reference material in this area.—Dona J. Helmer, Librarian, Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska

Women in American Musical Theatre: Essays on Composers, Lyricists, Librettists, Arrangers, Choreographers, Designers, Directors, Producers and Performance Artists. Ed. by Bud Coleman and Judith A. Sebesta. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2008. 292p. alkaline \$45 paper (ISBN 978-0-7864-3382-7).

This book aims to fill the gap in the existing literature where women ought to be. *Women in American Musical Theatre* not only celebrates the often-overlooked women discussed here, but also promotes a more scholarly discourse around musical theater generally with rigorous and thorough essays. Yet it does not seem useful to this reviewer as a reference work.

Two excellent publications focusing on historically marginalized groups in musical theater are *The Queer Encyclopedia of Music, Dance & Musical Theater*, edited by Claude J. Summers (Cleis Press, 2004) and Bernard L. Peterson Jr.’s *A Century of Musicals in Black and White: An Encyclopedia of Musical Stage Works by, about, or Involving African Americans*

(Greenwood, 1993). Like standard reference works, they provide access through multiple indices, offer internal bibliographies pointing to further research, and arrange the short entries alphabetically so the researcher can easily dip in and find relevant information. The same cannot be said for the arrangement of *Women in American Musical Theatre*; scholars and enthusiasts will continue to wait for the feminist reference counterpart to the two works mentioned above. Moreover, coverage in *Women in American Musical Theatre* is limited to the twentieth century, and as the editors point out in their introduction, the information here should be considered a sampling of women’s contributions rather than an overview.

Given the resources we already have to work with, does a collection of essays belong on the reference shelf? *Women in American Musical Theatre* is a worthwhile purchase for public and academic libraries because of the popularity of musical theater and the unique coverage of the subject. However, this book is recommended for the circulating collection.—Amy R. Hofer, Research Instruction Librarian, Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California

Women in the American West. By Laura E. Woodworth-Ney. Cultures in the American West. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 387p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-1-59884-050-6).

Notable author of American West–related scholarship Laura Woodworth-Ney has written an equally noteworthy historical survey with *Women in the American West*, the newest addition to the Cultures in the American West series. Woodworth-Ney immediately and necessarily defines the scope of her work both geographically and topically. Her “American West” includes North American areas west of the Mississippi River (excluding Hawaii and Alaska), while her topical scope is broad, including women who lived in or affected this geographic area and political and social events/phenomena that affected women in this geographic area. Woodworth-Ney organizes the majority of the work chronologically, rooting her discussion in the more general history of America at a given time.

Chapter two is devoted entirely to Native American experiences (though the experiences of this population are also interweaved throughout the work). Chapter one’s historiographical discussion of methods and limitations of conducting historical research about women in the American West suggests this work’s appropriateness as a women’s history textbook. A strong proponent of the benefits of including primary sources in the historical research process, the reviewer was pleased to find a twelve-page discussion on locating such resources for the covered topic. It was with great surprise and disappointment to then discover that the remainder of the work contains few examples of primary resources other than black-and-white photos. While some primary resources are cited within the bibliographic essay, the fact that they are primary resources is not immediately apparent due to the ill-chosen bibliographic format.

Though each chapter concludes with a lengthy