

Food and Drink in America confesses he is a junk food lover. While he claims his consumption of fast food has declined from his youth, his fascination with the topic has not, hence his continued interest in producing reference works on the subject. The preface states that “this encyclopedia is intended to be the primary balanced source for information about fast food and junk food”(xxxii).

Instead of a table of contents, there is a List of Entries but no page numbers are included. There is also a Topical List of Entries that includes such topics as Bakery Goods; Beverages; Candy; Fast Food; Health and Nutrition; Ice Cream; Restaurants and Drive-Ins; and Salty and Other Non Candy Snacks.

The articles are arranged alphabetically and range in length from a few paragraphs to several pages. All articles end with a listing of Further Readings. The listing of readings includes articles, books, and websites. There are “see also” references. For example, under Corn, the “see also” includes Beef Jerky; Bugles; Corn Dogs; High Fructose Corn Syrup; and Tacos. The entries are fun to read and interesting and provide information on topics ranging from specific products such as Dum Dum Pops and Twinkies to companies such as Dunkin Donuts and See’s Candies and broad topics such as Dieting and Sugar/Sweeteners.

An extensive index is included at the end of the volume. There is a Glossary that explains terms such as Batch Processing, Electrolytes, QSR (Quick Service Restaurant), and Tie-In. The back of the volume also contains a selected bibliography as well as a resource guide that lists CDs, DVDs, films, videos, organizations, and websites.

As much fun as this encyclopedia is to read, are these types of reference sources really needed anymore? Many of the Further References are to a company’s website to find out information. The user is able to do that without picking up this book. This resource gives a nice introduction to junk food and fast food but if a library already owns the first edition, there really is no need to buy this new edition. If a library collects food-related reference books, this 2 volume set would be a nice addition, but not necessary.—*Stacey Marien, Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, DC*

Food and Famine in the 21st Century. Ed. by William A. Dando. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 2 vols, acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-59884-730-7). E-book available (978-1-59884-731-4), call for pricing.

This comprehensive two-volume set provides detailed information on all aspects of famine, as well as the growing of our food and the nutrition it supplies. Volume 1, arranged in encyclopedic style, contains 50 long articles on topics associated with both food and famine. The lengthy articles (8–12 pages each) cover diverse topics from Genetically Modified Food and Arable Land, to Sustainable Food Production and Deficiency Diseases. Each signed article contains in-depth information, accompanied by occasional brief sidebars, tables and occasional black and white illustrations. All items include good-sized up to date bibliographies for further research.

Volume 2 looks at ten specific famine areas in depth, covering either specific famines (Irish, Dutch) or surveying the history of famines in a particular country or area (India, Russia, China). These extremely long and detailed articles (30–50 pages each) analyze each of the areas, summarizing famine history, causes, extent, reactions, assistance, and aftermath. Most include a few charts or graphs to illustrate major points about each famine. Complex interactions cause most famines but trigger events can range from a fungus in Ireland to drought in Africa to an unusual monsoon year in India. Preventable famines receive extended discussion, with well-reasoned arguments. In addition to a “Further Reading” section after each article, additional bibliographies appear at the end of the volume. The Introduction in Volume 2 covers famines of more ancient times, classifying them by area and kind, and a postscript discusses what to expect in the future, while also covering famines in Israel as an example of what might happen in this century.

Dr. Dando, (Geography professor emeritus, Indiana State University) has gathered a superb team of researchers, knowledgeable in all aspects of food, nutrition, and famine to create these volumes, after being requested by ABC-CLIO to do so. He contributed the preface, a lengthy introduction/overview to each volume and thirteen of the articles in volume 1, 7 sections in volume 2, and many of the sidebars. Recommended for high school age and above.—*Marion S. Muskiewicz, Science Reference Librarian, University of Massachusetts, Lowell*

Gods and Goddesses of Greece and Rome. New York: Marshall Cavendish Reference, 2012. 320 pages. alkaline \$85.64 (ISBN 978-0-7614-7951-2). E-book available (978-0-7614-9980-0), \$85.64.

Heroes and Heroines of Greece and Rome. New York: Marshall Cavendish Reference, 2012. 320 pages. alkaline \$85.64 (ISBN 978-0-7614-7952-9). E-book available (978-0-7614-9981-7), \$85.64.

Popular YA authors like Rick Riordan have created a new interest in mythology. The study of classic myths was always a part of high school curriculum but now has reached a zenith with students who are discovering ancient gods, goddesses, heroes, and heroines.

And just in time there have been some useful reference books on the topic. These books are not a retelling of the tales. Instead these two works contain scholarly signed articles ranging in length from one to eight pages. The first paragraph of each entry contains a short “ready reference” introduction to the subject and simply tells the main claim to fame, parentage, and importance. The bulk of the entry provides details about the stories, scholarly comparison of figures in other cultures, and speculates on the importance of the figure. Each volume is lushly illustrated with 270 color photographs of classic statues and paintings from the Renaissance through modern times. Since the topics of the entries are so unique, the entries do not have a standard format and the user will have to hunt to find specific information on topics such as