

SOURCES

the literary importance of the god or variant accounts but the hunt is worth it and they will be rewarded with enough background information to begin a term paper. Each article ends with a short 2–3 item bibliography of recent books as well as cross-references to other articles in the volume. Some entries also have color information boxes and although this helps break up the text there does not seem to be any consistent reason why some information is highlighted. Each volume has a pronunciation guide. Finally each volume also has an unannotated bibliography of books for additional reading as well as an annotated list of Internet resources.

There are other reference works for this age group on mythology. Gall's *The Lincoln Library of Greek and Roman Mythology* (Lincoln Library Press, 2006) is a multi-volume set that contains 500 entries on the gods, goddesses, heroes, places, and other important aspects Greek and Roman mythology. *U*X*L Encyclopedia of World Mythology* (Gale, 2009), a 5 volume set, is much broader in scope and contains 300 entries on the major characters, themes, myths, and stories of over 40 world cultures.

These two works have information on the major Greek and Roman heroes, heroines, gods, and goddesses. Librarians can choose one or both volumes depending on their needs and budget. The articles are accurate, lengthy, and thought provoking, and the volumes are designed to look and feel like an encyclopedia. High school, community college, and public libraries will find these useful and popular additions to their collections. I recommend these as a good value.—*Dona J. Helmer, Librarian, Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska*

Icons of the Middle Ages: Rulers, Writers, Rebels, and Saints. Ed. by Lister M. Matheson. Greenwood Icons. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2012. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-0-313-34080-2). E-book available (978-0-34080-2), call for pricing.

This is not a work about iconography. The title can give that impression and the subtitle does not exactly clarify the contents. The word “icon” in the title functions the way it does in contemporary popular culture, in the sense that it might be used to refer to Elvis Presley or Michael Jordan.

In this sense, the word “icon” is entirely appropriate, as the work goes beyond biography to include the long cultural reception history for each of the work’s medieval subjects, including their contemporary “iconic” status. For example, the entry about William Wallace begins with the scant evidence about his life, through Blind Hary’s fifteenth century *Wallace*, all the way up to cultural responses to Mel Gibson’s *Braveheart* (1995). Indeed, the work contains a few essays about legendary characters whose historical identity and even existence are in question, such as King Arthur and Robin Hood. At the other extreme are subjects such as Joan of Arc, about whom there is a relative wealth of historical evidence.

This difference in scope sets the work apart from works such as *Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2000). In that encyclopedia, the essay about Joan of Arc

covers approximately one two-column page, focusing primarily on the historical Joan of Arc, while Margaret Joan Maddox’s essay about Joan of Arc in *Icons of the Middle Ages* spans 32 pages, which includes 25 pages of biographical information and 5 pages of cultural reception, ending in a discussion of her continuing cultural influence in characters such as *Xena Warrior Princess*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *Joan of Arcadia*.

The depth and length of the essays remains consistent throughout, and in this way, *Icons of the Middle Ages* seems less like a reference work and more like a coherent, edited work of interesting nonfiction essays. It would not be difficult to imagine a history or popular culture enthusiast reading these two volumes cover to cover, nor would it be difficult to imagine a library patron wanting to take a volume home to examine a single chapter of interest. Indeed, the work would be more at home in a circulating collection or a selective browsing collection than in ready reference. On the other hand, it is accessible enough to function in a reference collection, as a deeper-but-narrower supplement to works such as *Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2000).

The two, attractive, hard-cover volumes are the size of a standard classroom textbook, and would be easy to carry. They feature a small number of grayscale images from medieval art, usually one per chapter, and there is an extensive index. The covers feature images of King Richard III and Sir Thomas More, which does hint that the work is not, in fact, about iconography.

Icons of the Middle Ages is a worthy acquisition for academic, public, and secondary school libraries. One might want to give some thought as to whether it should be added to the circulating collection or the reference collection.—*Steven R. Edscorn, Library Director, Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tennessee*

The Making of Modern Immigration: An Encyclopedia of People and Ideas. Ed. by Patrick J. Hayes. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 2 vols. acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-0-313-39202-3). E-book available (978-0-313-39203-0), call for pricing.

In an age of Wikipedia and instant information reference, publishers continue their quest to identify a niche for their works. One approach has been to focus on narrower topics. Rather than dealing with immigration in its entirety, recent works such as *Anti-Immigration in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press, 2011) have looked at specific aspects. The present publication differentiates itself by its depth of analysis. Instead of offering hundreds of brief essays on every conceivable topic, there are fewer than fifty essays covering significant themes, historical events, and ideas. The self-described goal is to make “the past intelligible and interesting to those searching for fresh insight and accurate information” (xxii).

This approach has its advantages. The disadvantage is that a reader will not find the expected essays on topics like the Dream Act, Ellis Island, or the Know Nothing