research need, and patrons seeking information about Na-
tive American artists, political leaders and activists, religious
leaders, or writers will need to consult field-specific reference
sources. Offering biographical sketches of some two dozen
people not profiled elsewhere, and updating the life stories
of contemporary or recently deceased Native Americans, Na-
tive Americans Today: A Biographical Dictionary is an optional
purchase for secondary school and public library reference
collections.—J. Christina Smith, Anthropology and Sociology
Bibliographer, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

September 11 in Popular Culture: A Guide. Ed. by Sara E. Quay
and Amy M. Damico, Santa Barbara, Calif., Greenwood, 2010. 319
(978-0-313-35506-6), call for pricing.

As we approach the tenth anniversary of the September
11 terrorist attack on the United States, we can anticipate a
flood of publications coming to examine every aspect of that
terrible event and its ubiquitous repercussions. This reference
guide is an early exemplar and covers the attack’s effects on
American popular culture during the past decade.

The book is divided into seven chapters: “Every Day Life”
(covering topics like religion, nesting, and heroes), “News
and Information” (via various media), “Books” (including
fiction, nonfiction, and comic books), “Television” (covering
trends, programming changes, and special episodes), “Film”
(covering changes in release dates and scene deletions as well
as pertinent movies), “Music” (including songs, albums, and
benefit concerts), and “Visual Culture” (covering posters,
memorials, and exhibits). Each chapter then has three parts: an
introductory overview essay, relevant sidebars, and a series of
spotlight essays on particular works, events, or topics. Each
part lists its own references.

As befits a work on pop culture, the topics addressed
in the narrow-bore spotlight essays range from the banal
(“Comfort Foods,” “Women’s Magazines,” and “Postcards”)
to significant works from serious artists in books, film,
music, and television. Although not overtly political, the
viewpoint of the writers tends leftward to the extent that
we get complaints in an essay about newspaper headlines
that overly belligerent headlines helped construct an atmos-
phere inhospitable to further dialogue with the perpetra-
tors of the tragic events. Also, in an essay about hate crimes
against Muslims, we are presented with statistics from the
Council on American-Islamic Relations without any quali-
fication of how some researchers have found CAIR’s work
extremely dubious. In the introductory chapter on film, the
writer takes at face value the fact that war-oriented films did
not perform well at the box office without considering that
perhaps the anti-American, anti-military bent in films like
Redacted and Lions for Lambs had something to do with the
American public’s rejection of such tin-eared products. In
fact, this work devotes more attention to the opinions and
works of September 11 truther conspiracy theorists than
those of conservatives.

Still, this volume is engagingly written and broadly out-
lines how the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and their
aftermath have strongly influenced all aspects of American
popular culture over both the short and long term. Whether
the book belongs in the reference collection is debatable be-
cause it seems more like a book that should circulate, but it
emphatically does merit a place in the general collection. Rec-
commended for all types of libraries.—John Maxymuk, Rutgers
University, Camden, New Jersey

Space Exploration and Humanity: A Historical Encyclopedia. Ed.
by Stephen B. Johnson. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2010. 2
(978-1-85109-519-3), call for pricing.

Begun in 2002 as a part of a project undertaken by the
History Committee of the American Astronautical Society
(AAS), this two-volume set offers articles by more than one
hundred contributors under the general editorship of Stephen
B. Johnson of the National Institute for Space, Science, and
Security Centers at the University of Colorado at Colorado
Springs and the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. Intended
to serve as the “first comprehensive space history encyclo-
dedia,” the team of space historian–authors collectively describe
how man’s involvement in space has evolved during the last
half-century.

Coverage spans six broad areas, including astrophysics
and planetary science, civilian and commercial space applica-
tions, human spaceflight and microgravity science, military
applications, space and society, and space technology and en-
genineering. Each of these broad areas is introduced by a section
editor with an overview essay intended to provide students
with a range of themes and topics in that area of space his-
tory worthy of consideration as a research paper topic. There’s
a well thought out logic to the work, as within each broad
area is a timeline and a logical progression of subsections that
serve as a chronological outline of the history of the broad
area of space exploration discussed.

Aimed at a target audience of high school seniors and
college undergraduates writing a paper on a history topic,
entries are alphabetically arranged within the previously
described topical hierarchy, and each is typically four to
several paragraphs in length, signed, and includes “see also”
references and a one-to-three item bibliography intended to
steer readers to additional information. While the presenta-
tion density of the text will likely intimidate high school
students, readers will appreciate efforts by the editors to
break up and supplement the narrative with hundreds of
black-and-white photographs and illustrations, scores of
tables with statistical data and lists (of satellites and other
spacecraft, instruments, etc.), and a helpful list of acronyms
and glossary. Both the table of contents and the eighty-page
subject index (with main entries indicated in bold print)
appear in each of the two volumes.

There are notable differences in the manner in which this
set is presented. For example, because, as the editors point