

SOURCES

more of the bibliographic citations that follow most entries. A complete bibliography is also provided. At the end of the book an excellent and extensive index includes indicators of which entries include illustrations.

The scope of this work reaches back to ancient Egypt, into the classical world, through the Middle Ages, and into contemporary society. Topics covered include magical lore and traditions, philosophies, rituals, materials, procedures, famous personalities, and their relevance to modern science. It should be noted that the work is not a “how to” book for the amateur magician.

The publisher suggests this work is a result of interest in magic that has been rekindled by the recent success of popular fiction and films such as the Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings works. This reviewer would propose that throughout the millennia, interest in the supernatural has never waned. There have been and continue to be numerous compilations about magic, the occult, the paranormal, alchemy, mysticism, spirituality, and the like. The paranormal has long been used to explain what is incomprehensible or yet to be understood, assisting humans in understanding the world and, ultimately, understanding themselves and their relationship to that which falls into the realm of the divine.

There are a plethora of related works. Guiley herself wrote an earlier compilation titled *Encyclopedia of Strange, Mystical, and Unexplained* (Gramercy, 2001), which is a one-volume encyclopedia with black-and-white photographs and illustrations, containing five hundred entries on people, places, techniques, and events of the fabulous and fantastic, the mystical and unexplainable. John Michael Greer wrote *The New Encyclopedia of the Occult* (Llewellyn Pub., 2003), which has 1,500 well-illustrated entries accompanied by an extensive bibliography. In this reviewer's opinion, the best entry-level two-volume work on this topic remains Leslie Shepard's *Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology* (3d ed., Gale, 1991). This work is actually a fusion of two earlier one-volume works, Nandor Fodor's *Encyclopaedia of Psychic Science* (Arthurs Pr., 2003) and Lewis Spence's *Encyclopaedia of Occultism* (Apt Bks., 1984). These two earlier works get surpassed by the inclusion of revisions and additional up-to-date information. Shepard's work is a comprehensive publication that even includes articles about occult magicians such as Bonewits and critics of the paranormal such as Randi. Last and not to be overlooked is the twenty-four-volume *Man, Myth, and Magic: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Supernatural*, edited by Richard Cavendish (Marshall Cavendish, 1970). Although many years out of print, this substantial compilation has numerous informative articles on just about every conceivable occult or supernatural topic, complete with lots of color illustrations.

As an entry-level work covering an extensive range of subjects on this fascinating and broad topic, *The Encyclopedia of Magic and Alchemy* is strongly recommended for high school, college, and university library collections.—David M. Fagerstrom, Faculty Director, Science Library, University of Colorado, Boulder

Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball Clubs. Ed. by Steven A. Reiss. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$199.95 (ISBN 0-313-32991-5).

Sports historians and baseball fans will treasure this work's in-depth histories of active major league baseball teams. Editor Steven A. Reiss, an accomplished historian with several titles on sports in culture and history to his credit, opens with a detailed yet brief historical overview of major league baseball. Team histories in thirty chapters follow, with the older National League covered in volume 1 and the American League in volume 2. Authored largely by writers from academia, the team histories not only chronicle the successes and failures of teams on the field, but cover management and labor practices, economic developments, media influences, and even fan reactions. Throughout, attention has been given to larger social issues that transcend baseball. For example, baseball's struggle to achieve racial equality, from the racist outbursts of Ty Cobb to the courageous tolerance of Jackie Robinson, is reported in detail. Each chapter concludes with lists of notable achievements, including team batting and pitching records, award winners, and a chronology of managers. A helpful and current team bibliography is also provided.

One limitation of this work is its focus on current major league teams. Teams that have endured by changing place or name are discussed within the context of their current homes, meaning that for a discussion of the St. Louis Browns, one must turn to the chapter on the Baltimore Orioles (the St. Louis Browns became the Baltimore Orioles in 1953). Teams now defunct may not be discussed at all, leaving it to readers to turn to other more comprehensive works such as Donald Dewey and Nicholas Acocella's *Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball Teams* (HarperCollins, 1993).

Unlike similar reference works, such as Dennis Purdy's *The Team-by-Team Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball* (Workman, 2006), statistics do not dominate this work. Reiss shares the bulk of his statistical content through seventeen appendixes, and rather than focus on records, these statistics help to provide further context and color for the team histories by sharing historical numbers on attendance, profit and loss, and player salaries. The look and feel of the work follows from the tone of its serious historical narratives; like many scholarly works, it is plain and unadorned. Each chapter includes only about two black-and-white images. For a sport so rich in imagery, more photographs (including some in color) would have been an intriguing addition to this work. A similar, older work, *Professional Sports Team Histories: Baseball*, edited by Michael L. LaBlanc (Gale, 1994), includes many more photographs and is far more engaging in its layout. The index to the *Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball Clubs*, which is found only at the end of volume 2, could be easier to use. For example, subentries under main entries wrap in paragraph style rather than appearing as lists, making it a struggle for the eye to pick out needed entries.

Although historians and fans can turn to stand-alone team histories for more comprehensive discussions, this work provides an excellent and up-to-date starting point, oftentimes

skillfully placing baseball within the larger framework of U.S. history. This work is recommended for academic library collections in support of both the general undergraduate curriculum and advanced programs in sports history. Other libraries with strong baseball or sports history collections will also want to consider this solid, yet modest work.—*Ken Burhanna, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Kent State University, Ohio*

Encyclopedia of Measurement and Statistics. Ed. by Neil J. Salkind. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$395 (ISBN 1-4129-1611-9).

The stated objective of the editor of this set is to provide the general reader with a source of information on statistics as applied to the social sciences, particularly psychology. The encyclopedia contains entries on experimental methods, techniques, sampling, analysis, and statistical tests. Nearly one hundred psychometric assessment tests, such as the Myers-Briggs Inventory and Clinical Assessment of Depression, have individual entries describing their history, the test forms, and uses.

The entries are written by academics in the fields of psychology and statistics and range in length from several paragraphs to several pages depending on the complexity and importance of the subject. The clarity of the entries varies according to the subject and author; the level of writing is uneven. For example, the entries on Eigenvalues and Fourier Analysis include dense discussions of high-level mathematics, which is not in keeping with the level of the audience targeted by the editor and evident for the majority of the entries. In contrast, the entry for z scores, a much simpler topic, is clear and easily understandable. In any case, the general reader is more interested in the meaning of the values that statistical software generates, such as probability *p*, than the detailed mathematics that produced them.

The nonmathematical topics are generally well written and lack excessive jargon. These topics also include those more interesting to the general public, such as ethics in testing and IQ testing. Most entries include suggestions for further reading. Additional material includes appendixes for Internet sites, critical values, a glossary, and master bibliography. The set is appropriate for undergraduate and large public libraries.—*Sara Parsons, Reference Librarian, Oregon, Ohio*

The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: A Political, Social, and Military History. Ed. by Gregory Fremont-Barnes and Richard Alan Ryerson. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2006. 5 vols. acid free \$485 (ISBN 1-85109-408-3).

[Ed. note: Also see the review of *American Revolutionary War: A Student Encyclopedia*, ed. by Gregory Fremont-Barnes and Richard Alan Ryerson (ABC-Clío, 2006), page 81.]

This encyclopedia demonstrates the value of books in the Internet age. It comprehensively and authoritatively presents the people, battles, and issues of the American Revolution,

plus scores of primary sources, in an attractive and highly usable format.

The first four volumes contain more than one thousand signed entries on subjects as expected as a biography of John Adams and as obscure as the fight at Tarrant's Tavern, North Carolina. Coverage includes creation of the U.S. Constitution four years after the war. These volumes each provide an alphabetical list of all the encyclopedia's entries, a list of maps, a set of general maps, and an index. The first volume includes a preface, "Putting the American Revolution in Perspective," and two essays on the origins of the revolution and the military operations in it. At the end of the fourth volume are a comparison of army ranks, a chronology, a glossary, a list of editors and contributors, and a long general bibliography. Each subject entry also includes a bibliography.

The last volume is a treasure, especially for students learning how to do research in primary sources. It has 154 original documents as varied as "Letter of a Boston Loyalist (1774)" and "Nathanael Green's View on Quaker Pacifism (1775 and 1777)," and as momentous as the "Stamp Act (1765)" and the "Virginia Declaration of Rights." The documents are preceded by introductions.

The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: A Political, Social, and Military History should be compared with the student version of the same material, *American Revolutionary War: A Student Encyclopedia*, from the same publisher and editors (see first review in this section). *The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War* is, in many respects, similar to *The American Revolution 1775–1783: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Richard L. Blanco, (Garland, 1993). The new set does have numerous black-and-white illustrations lacking in the older work, but libraries with tight budgets that own Blanco's wide-ranging encyclopedia can get by with it. More to the point these days may be comparisons to Wikipedia. Some of the less-famous subjects found in *The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War* are not included in the popular Web-based encyclopedia. On more famous subjects, Wikipedia's strengths include color illustrations and the links it provides to related subjects, but the paper encyclopedia holds its own with longer articles, as well as with the bibliographies and the authority of authors. All in all, the new encyclopedia is a worthy project and, if they can afford it, deserves purchase by librarians looking for a good resource about the birth of the United States.—*Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism Since 1450. Ed. by Thomas Benjamin. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006. 3 vols. alkaline \$395 (ISBN 0-02-865843-4).

This new reference work focuses on the colonial empires of West European nations and the United States, but it also gives space to the colonial expansion of Japan, the Ottomans, and Russia. The editors, led by historian Thomas Benjamin, organized an international corps of scholars to contribute more than four hundred articles on a broad range of topics