

SOURCES

by many slaves—and makes reference to the lasting legacy of slavery today—the content in this article is readily accessible elsewhere. More selectivity would have made room for lengthier, more in-depth entries pertaining to the core topic.

Despite its flaws, the encyclopedia's unique coverage and thorough bibliographic information still render it a valuable reference source. Recommended for all libraries.—*Michael L. Nelson, Collection Development Librarian, University of Wyoming Libraries, Laramie, Wyoming*

Arab-Israeli Conflict: The Essential Reference Guide. Ed. by Priscilla Roberts. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 377 p. Acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-61069-067-6). E-book (978-1-61069-068-3) available, call for pricing.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the most emotion-laden, controversial phenomena in modern history. Too often, the way that American students learn about the Arab-Israeli conflict is through propaganda spread through social media channels, faculty with political agendas, or campus rallies siding with one faction or the other. Educators have an ethical responsibility to provide foundational information about this conflict in a straightforward, neutral manner, ideally from a concise, authoritative source. Dr. Priscilla Roberts' reference guide to the Arab-Israeli conflict can easily fill this niche.

Roberts is a history professor at the University of Hong Kong specializing in twentieth-century international history, Asian-Western relations, and Anglo-American foreign policy. Her research background gives her the required context to present information about the Arab-Israeli conflict in an objective, factual manner. The list of contributors selected to collaborate on this publication include researchers of history, criminal justice, military history, international studies, and Middle Eastern studies.

This single compact volume—a condensed version of the massive four volume *Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Political, Social, and Military History* edited by Spencer and Roberts (ABC-CLIO, 2008)—contains four sections. First, Roberts lays out a general overview of the Arab-Israeli conflict, its causes, and its consequences. Then she provides forty-nine reference entries covering the most important countries, people, events, and organizations involved in the conflict. Each entry includes an extensive further reading section of related scholarly books and journal articles. Documents referenced in the entries are provided in the "Primary Source Documents" section, which includes the online sources where readers can access the original texts in full. Last but not least, the appendix provides a special section that specifically addresses the historical dilemmas of the conflict, as well as a chronology of events, selected bibliography, and a list of contributors that include researchers from American and Canadian universities and the United States military.

At this time, no other broad yet well-researched survey of the Arab-Israeli conflict exists as a single-volume reference resource. For those libraries that do not have Spencer and Roberts' encyclopedia set, this single volume resource would

pair well with *The Encyclopedia of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (ed. Rubenberg, Lynne Reine Publishers, 2010), a three volume set, that provides other details of the conflict such as Israeli laws in the Occupied territories and Palestinian school textbooks that indoctrinate students in anti-Semitism and terrorist activity.

Arab-Israeli Conflict: The Essential Reference Guide would be appropriate for high school, academic, and large public library collections. It would also make a solid textbook for students taking introductory courses on modern Israel or Palestine.—*Rachel Wexelbaum, Associate Professor / Collection Management Librarian, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota*

Artifacts from Ancient Rome. By James B. Tschen-Emmons. Daily Life through Artifacts. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 321 p. Acid free \$100 (ISBN 978-1-61069-619-7). E-book (978-1-61069-620-3) available, call for pricing.

Greenwood has launched a new series, Daily Life through Artifacts, which acts as companion of sorts to its Daily Life Series. It is intended to teach students to use material culture with primary sources to investigate historical life and societies. *Artifacts from Ancient Rome* is the first published volume in the series. Its author, Dr. James B. Tschen-Emmons, is a former special collections librarian, now historian and archaeologist, who teaches history at North Idaho College.

The volume itself presents black and white pictures of artifacts from ancient Rome grouped in categories by topics such as communications and record keeping, entertainment, household items, and religion and funerary practices. Dr. Tschen-Emmons has chosen several representative items for each category and gives a brief introduction and description, followed by a section explaining the significance of the item in Roman society. Sidebars give excerpts from Pliny the Elder, Livy, Quintillian, and other Roman historians and commentators translated into English, putting the artifacts into contemporary context and tying material culture to primary resources. There is a brief introduction on the history of Rome and a chapter on "How to evaluate artifacts," which aids students in interpreting and analyzing artifacts and using them to explain Roman life, culture, and customs.

This volume was intended for high school and undergraduate students, and the format reflects this. Text is large and easy to read, and the vocabulary should be easily understandable for these groups. Each entry also has a further information section at the end, which should aid students in finding more in-depth information if they require it. It is a shame that the photographs of the artifacts themselves are in black and white, as color would be more visually appealing and would give readers a clearer idea of how the artifacts appear.

Teaching students how material culture can inform and shape societies, and vice-versa, is a difficult task. The volumes in these series are an interesting attempt to tie the interpretation of the artifacts of a culture to the primary sources available, helping students learn not only analysis and interpretation techniques, but also how to use the primary record. For

this reason, specialists or more advanced researchers will find this book too basic for their needs. There are, of course, many, many volumes on the material culture of Rome, but this volume is unique in its focus on teaching (younger) students to use and interpret these artifacts for research. It is recommended, therefore, for high school and undergraduate institutions and would probably be useful for colleges and universities with Classics or archaeology departments.—*Amanda K. Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri Libraries, Columbia, Missouri*

The Beatles Encyclopedia: Everything Fab Four. By Kenneth Womack. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-0-313-39171-2). E-book available (978-0-313-39172-9), call for pricing.

As every Beatlemaniac knows, there is an abundance of information out there about those wacky lads from Liverpool. However, this reverently researched two-volume set by Penn State University Laureate and professor of English and integrative arts Kenneth Womack offers a scholarly and organized yet readable approach to the history of the Beatles, from each member's very early years to post-Beatles to present day.

Main entries are in alphabetical order and include biographical information, songs, albums, films, television and video, art, books, business ventures, musical styles, performances and recordings, geographical locations, and other important concepts and historical events, with further reading at the end of each entry. Quotes from interviews and other sources make the entries come alive. Any quotes cited are included in each entry's further reading list, which saves the reader from having to flip to the extensive list of "Recommended Resources" provided near the end of volume 2.

Biographical entries are provided for each Beatle and his family as well as the many other people who surrounded them and influenced their lives and music, such as Brian Epstein, George Martin, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Phil Spector, and Eric Clapton. The entry for photographer Astrid Kirchherr, for example, tells the story of the origin of the mop-top hairstyle (506).

Song entries are provided for every important recording, from "Bad Boy" to the "Ballad of John and Yoko," and include applicable information on authorship and background, recording sessions, personnel (including vocals and instrumentation), chart performance, legacy and influence, controversy, and album appearances. For example, did you know that Paul McCartney was inspired to write the song "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" after seeing monkeys copulating at the estate of Maharishi (993)? Or that John Lennon wrote "Mean Mr. Mustard" after reading a newspaper article about a "mean guy who hid his five-pound notes, not up his nose but *somewhere else*. No, it had nothing to do with cocaine" (634).

Album entries include dates, record label, background and recording sessions, track listing, cover artwork, reviews, chart performance, and legacy and influence. Geographic entries describe the significance of places such as "Shea Stadium

(New York)" and "Strawberry Field (Liverpool)." There are entries for key controversies and concepts such as "The Beatles Are Bigger than Jesus Christ" and the "Paul is Dead" Hoax." With regard to the latter, I had never before encountered such a complete list of "clues" (715).

The entry for "Tours, 1960–1966" is lengthy and fascinating, containing background information for each tour, dates and locations, and standard set lists. A limited number of black and white photographs are interspersed throughout the text entries. Many photos are familiar ones (mostly licensed from AP, Corbis, and Getty) with a few rarities among them. I would recommend other sources for color or glossy photographs or detailed album artwork.

Other features include an alphabetical list of entries at the beginning of each volume, along with an organized guide to related topics. Included at the end of volume 2 is a discography in chronological order along with a complete index. The volumes could use just a few "See" references, such as a "White Album" entry for "*The Beatles (The White Album) (LP)*."

This encyclopedia would be an invaluable resource for public libraries, undergraduate academic libraries, and specialized music or performing arts libraries. It would also make a thoughtful gift for any Beatles fan.—*Cindy Kristof, Head of Copyright and Document Services, Kent State University Libraries, Kent, Ohio*

Blood on the Stage, 480 B.C. to 1600 A.D.: Milestone Plays of Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem: An Annotated Repertoire. By Amnon Kabatchnik. Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield, 2014. 382 p. Alkaline \$125 (ISBN 978-1-4422-3547-2). E-book (978-1-4422-3548-9) available, \$199.99.

Blood on the Stage: 480 B.C. to 1600 A.D. by Amnon Kabatchnik is the fourth book in a series about murders and mysteries in the theater world. This volume is a prequel and covers a much earlier time period than the other books by Kabatchnik. Previous books in the series cover the entire twentieth century; however, all are about crime, murder, and mystery in the world of stage productions.

There have been an untold number of volumes written in the field of theater history. *Blood on the Stage* stands out for its emphasis on some of the earliest recorded plays in written history. Unlike many other works that cover theater history broadly, this book is a collection of entries describing forty-eight different plays. Kabatchnik has pulled out selections that are "the most important theatrical works of mayhem and murder performed between 480 BC (*Prometheus Bound* by Aeschylus) and 1600 AD (*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare)" (xix). Most of these selections are well known plays; however, Kabatchnik has also included works that are more obscure in order to present a wider collection.

This book covers a unique portion of theater history. With its focus on murders and mysteries specifically, this volume stands out among theater history books. *Blood on the Stage*'s final entry is for William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Compared to the entry in David Wiles and Christine Dymkowski's *The*