

above.—Marion S. Muskiewicz, *Science Librarian emerita, University of Massachusetts Lowell*

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***Pop Culture Places: An Encyclopedia of Places in American Popular Culture.*** By Gladys L. Knight. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 3 vols. Acid free \$310 (ISBN 978-0-313-39882-7). E-book (978-0-313-39883-4) available, call for pricing.

The American landscape offers an abundance of places that are enshrined in American cultural memory. Places such as Area 51, surrounded by mystery and intrigue, and Coney Island, arguably America's most historically famous amusement park, have achieved lasting cultural prominence and remain important places in America's collective imagination. Gladys L. Knight's *Pop Culture Places: An Encyclopedia of Places in American Popular Culture* seeks to inform readers about America's most prominent and historically significant popular culture places. This three-volume encyclopedia contains an alphabetical and topical list of entries, a useful preface and introduction, over 350 entries, images, a select bibliography, and an index.

Arranged alphabetically, *Pop Culture Places* offers readers an overview of popular culture places from actual places such as Salem, Massachusetts, home of the Salem witch trials, to more conceptual places such as the American diner and barbershops. This broad array of culturally significant places is among this work's most appealing features. Equally important is Knight's preface, in which she frames the scope and purpose of the encyclopedia. Applying a broad definition to popular culture, *Pop Culture Places* focuses on providing the reader with information on how and why a place entered into America's collective memory and why a particular place's cultural appeal has sustained or why its significance has waned. All entries in this work are structured in a useful and easy to follow format, with each entry containing "historical perspectives" and "images in popular culture" sections.

Most popular culture reference works, such as the *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture* (St. James Press, 2013), focus largely on popular culture personalities, films, and music. With almost no comparable works addressing popular culture places or spaces, *Pop Culture Places* is a relatively unique reference work. While *Pop Culture Places* offers insightful perspectives on American popular culture, the encyclopedia has several shortcomings. From a conceptual perspective, Knight's work is grounded largely in a historical framework in which the historical importance of a place dominates. As an encyclopedia addressing the importance of place, this work would have benefited from a cultural geography framework in which the importance of place and space come more to the fore. Additionally, readers may be disappointed to learn that very few entries contain photographs or images. While cost and copyright were the likely barriers, one would expect more images of the places highlighted in the three volumes.

*Pop Culture Places* is an informative and useful reference work for general audiences. It provides readers with a less

common perspective on familiar places in the American historical and cultural landscape. With its diverse selection of places, *Pop Culture Places* will appeal to large audiences interested in American popular culture, cultural geography, and cultural history. *Pop Culture Places* is recommended for high school and academic libraries and medium to large public libraries.—Joseph A. Hurley, *Interim Director, Collaborative University Research and Visualization Environment (CURVE), Georgia State University Library, Atlanta, Georgia*

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***Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic.*** Ed. By Charles A. Gallagher and Cameron D. Lippard. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 4 vols. Acid free \$399 (ISBN 978-1-4408-0345-1). E-book available (978-1-4408-0346-8), call for pricing.

This new four-volume set purports to be a definitive source on race-related topics in the United States, both historically and in the present. Not focusing exclusively on black and white race relations, the scope of the set is extensive. The cover images of the handsome print edition give a good representation of the variety of issues covered. A drawing of a slave in chains entitled, "Am I Not a Man and a Brother?" from a broadside edition of an 1835 poem is the oldest image, while a photograph from a Los Angeles May Day rally in 2012 is the most recent. In between chronologically are a black-and-white photograph of Japanese Americans under armed guard at an internment camp, black and white college students holding hands and singing while working to register black voters in the American South, a cross burning at a KKK rally, and a contemporary protest of the Washington Redskins team nickname. These represent some of the typical entries in this encyclopedia, portraying the complex reach of racial issues across American society and history.

Entries cover noteworthy figures and personalities, memorable events, and other sundry race-related topics. Alphabetically ordered, they typically contain "See Also" references and usually at least ten resources for further reading. While relatively brief—usually only a few pages—the entries are also complemented by sidebars providing additional information and context for users. For example, the entry on the Nation of Islam contains side boxes on both the Million-Man March on Washington in 1995 as well as the Reverend Louis Farrakhan. Other features are an index that refers users both to main entries and persons and subjects within entries. Additionally, a topical list of entries, a chronology, preface, and an introduction on the history of American racial issues are also presented. Most of volume 4 of this set consists of primary documents, many representing legal and codified racism, ranging from the old—the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Slave Codes of the State of Georgia, 1848—to the new—Arizona Senate Bill 1070 of 2010, which allows law enforcement to detain suspected illegal immigrants.

There are other current and similar encyclopedia sets on the market. The *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism* (Macmillan, 2007), edited by John H. Moore, and the *Encyclopedia*