

## SOURCES

the editor's target audience: high school and undergraduate students and the general consumer. A unique feature of the encyclopedia is the "Experiments and Activities" resource at the end of volume 3. This tool is a collection of various activities and experiments that help to illustrate many of the topics covered in the text. These activities not only benefit the reader but would be an excellent resource for high school or undergraduate instructors in need of lab and other hands-on activities that complement teachings on the brain and nervous system.

An additional strength of the text is the editor. Hellier is an expert in the field of neuroscience, with teaching and research experience. Though Hellier's background is impressive, the authority of the contributors is questionable. The Hellier states that the contributors are "uniquely qualified to speak with authority regarding at least one aspect of the brain, the nervous system, and their diseases" (xxvi), and the backgrounds of the contributors include neuroscientists, neurologists, family physicians, psychologists, and public health professionals. She fails to explain why twenty-four of the seventy-three contributors are undergraduate students, not professionals. This calls into question the authority of the work. A student pursuing his or her bachelor's degree does not possess the same or comparable authority of a neurologist. Due to the questionable authority of the contributors, the encyclopedia is not recommended as a resource for health care professionals or researchers.

Despite this drawback, the text fills a gap in the literature. While Carol Turkington's *Encyclopedia of the Brain and Brain Disorders* (Facts On File, 2009) is more user friendly for the general consumer and high school student, it is not as comprehensive or detailed as Hellier's work. Though the level of detail regarding the brain and neurological disorders in Noggle, Dean, and Horton's *The Encyclopedia of Neuropsychological Disorders* (Springer, 2012) is comparable to Hellier's text, it is a clinical resource written to aid health care professionals in patient care. Hellier provides a balance between both Turkington's and Noggle, Dean, and Horton's encyclopedias. *The Brain, the Nervous System, and Their Diseases* is a comprehensive introduction to neuroscience and neurology that is accessible for consumers and undergraduates. The level at which the text is written in combination with the "Experiments and Activities" resource also makes this resource an ideal teaching tool for high school and undergraduate educators.—*Maria C. Melssen, Medical Librarian, Port Clinton, Ohio*

---

***Comics Through Time: A History of Icons, Idols, and Ideas.*** Edited by M. Keith Booker. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 4 vols. Acid free \$415 (ISBN: 978-0-313-39750-9). Ebook available (978-0-313-39751-6), call for pricing.

*Comics Through Time: A History of Icons, Idols, and Ideas* is an ambitious, four-volume title that "seeks to capture some of the richness" of comics history and "provide information on this history for a wide range of users, from casual fans

of comics to professional scholars of the form" (xxiii). Each of the four volumes covers a specific time period, beginning in the 1900s with comic strips and continuing to the present. Just as the volumes cover a broad expanse of time, they also deal with a diverse array of subjects, including comic strips, comic books, comics creators both well-known and obscure (often accompanied by large photographs), comics publishers, and genres such as science fiction and horror. Articles on topics such as the Cold War and religion provide insight into how comics depicted the societal landscape of the time. *Comics through Time* even provides information on the more obscure aspects of comics history such as Tijuana Bibles, which depicted well-known comics characters in bawdy stories.

Each volume has an extensive and incisive introduction and chronology covering the landscape of comics during the period covered by that volume. While the individual entries provide information on specific topics, the introductions give the reader a broader picture of the ups and downs of the comics industry as well as how comics influenced (and were influenced by) the broader culture.

Since the work is organized by time period, each entry covers a given topic only within the specific period covered by the volume; therefore many subjects, publishers, and creators are given multiple entries throughout the volumes. For example, Will Eisner, whose career spanned from the 1930s until his death in 2005, is given entries in all four volumes. An index ensures that readers will be able to locate all entries for a given topic or creator.

A minor weakness of the work is that a few notable creators, while mentioned in various places, do not receive entries of their own. For example: Carmine Infantino, who became one of the most notable DC Comics artists of the Silver Age for revitalizing the Flash and Batman, and eventually became the company's publisher, is mentioned in various entries and a sidebar but is not given a proper entry of his own.

Recent years have seen the publication of several valuable comics reference works, such as Beaty and Weiner's *Critical Survey of Graphic Novels* series (Salem Press 2012–13). Libraries that have found that series to be a useful resource for patrons should also purchase *Comics through Time*. The two works are similar in scope but each provides a good amount of unique information, so the two titles complement each other nicely.—*Edward Whatley, Instruction and Research Services Librarian, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Georgia*

---

***Drugs in American Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, Culture, and the Law.*** Edited by Nancy E. Marion and Willard M. Oliver. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 3 vols. Acid free \$294 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-595-4). Ebook available (978-1-61069-596-1), call for pricing.

*Drugs in American Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, Culture, and the Law* fills a hole in reference resources that examine the breadth of drugs' impact on American Society.

There are other works that address the topic directly, such as *Drugs in American Society* by Erich Goode, currently in its 8th edition (McGraw-Hill, 2012), but that work does not match the scope of this new encyclopedic set.

*Drugs in American Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, Culture, and the Law* contains a table of contents, a guide to related topics, and a chronological list of significant events in drug and alcohol use through history ranging from 5000 BCE to 2013. There are 468 articles in three volumes, with limited illustrations and pictures. Also included is an appendix containing primary documents related to drug use in America, and an index. The articles are arranged alphabetically, and are encyclopedic in nature. Article length varies slightly, most articles are approximately 1–2 pages long. All articles include related topics and suggestions for further reading. The audience for this work is anyone with an interest in learning about any aspect of drug use, be it manufacture and composition, physical effects on the body, laws and court decisions, public figures affected by drugs or alcohol, or trends in drug use.

The scope of *Drugs in American Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, Culture, and the Law* is to describe aspects of drugs, drug use, and drug abuse that have affected American society. It accomplishes this task well, covering a wide array of topics under that umbrella. It is thorough, but not exhaustive, so supplemental works should be considered in collection development. The guide to related topics at the beginning of each volume is very convenient. There is an extensive appendix containing primary documents related to drug use in America. The articles featuring celebrities humanize the struggles American society has had with drug abuse. That being said, the inclusion of celebrities appears to be a mechanism for expanding the audience. Those included seem chosen because they died as a direct result of drug or alcohol abuse, and arbitrarily chosen, as it does not include an exhaustive list of celebrities who died from overdoses or alcoholism. No mention is made of celebrities who have publicly battled addiction who appear to be winning the fight.

I would recommend purchasing *Drugs in American Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, Culture, and the Law* for lower-level undergraduates.—*Abigail Creitz, Technical Services Librarian, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana*

---

***Famous Assassinations in World History: An Encyclopedia.*** By Michael Newton. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-285-4). Ebook available (978-1-61069-286-1), call for pricing.

*Famous Assassinations in World History: An Encyclopedia* includes two volumes of 266 entries of assassinations and attempted assassinations of world political leaders from 465 BCE to 2012. Notable names include John F. Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln, Adolf Hitler, Benazir Bhutto, Rasputin, and Osama bin Laden. The only nonpolitical person included is John Lennon, included because of his sociopolitical involvement toward the end of his life. Four entries are included on organizations involved in multiple assassinations such as the

Ku Klux Klan. The entries, arranged alphabetically, include a description of the assassination, a profile of the victim, and an explanation of how the assassination or attempted assassination effected politics and society of the time.

Similar works include *Encyclopedia of Assassinations* by Carl Sifakis (Facts on File 2001), *Assassinations and Executions: An Encyclopedia of Political Violence, 1900 through 2000* by Harris M. Lentz III (McFarland 2002) and *Assassinations and Executions: An Encyclopedia of Political Violence, 1865-1986* also by Harris M. Lentz III (McFarland 1988). While these works share some of the same political martyrs, there are enough unique features to warrant the purchase of *Famous Assassinations* for those with collections in the area of history or politics.

Twenty-three primary documents, arranged chronologically, are included with entries ranging from a letter of Brutus to Cicero on Caesar's assassination in 43 BCE, and official messages and correspondence relating to the shooting of President Lincoln, to excerpts from the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act that resulted from the attempted assassination of President Reagan. An appendix includes a timeline of an additional 486 cases not included in the text because of space limitations. Recommended for academic and public libraries.—*Rachael Elrod, Head, Education Library, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida*

---

***The Great American Mosaic: An Exploration of Diversity in Primary Documents.*** Edited by Gary Y. Okihiro. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 4 vols. Acid free \$415 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-612-8). Ebook (978-1-61069-613-5) available, call for pricing.

Gary Y. Okihiro's edited collection of primary documents, *The Great American Mosaic*, is a conventionally formatted ABC-CLIO sourcebook of historical materials divided between four volumes, one of each focusing on the experiences of African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans. A set that also included a volume focused on the experience of Muslim Americans might have increased the impression of timeliness to the work as a whole, but such an identity-based assignment would not have gelled with Okihiro's geographically based organization, the logic of which he explains tautly in a general introduction to the set.

The most unique value of this set comes from its four individual volume editors, each of whom contributes a, introductory essay to their volume along with brief introductions prefacing every primary source document entry, which help provide insight and historical context. Most of the volumes follow a similar chronological organizational scheme and scope. Lionel Bascom's volume on the African American experience covers from Briton Hammon's individual narrative of the Revolutionary War era through Barack Obama's address to reporters in the aftermath of the Trayvon Martin case. James