

***American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore.*** Edited by Christopher R. Fee and Jeffrey B. Webb. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 3 vols. \$310 (ISBN 978-1-61069-567-1). E-book (978-1-61069-568-8) available, call for pricing.

Compilations of American folklore are constantly being rewritten to reflect the increasing diversity and variety of American culture. Many readers grew up with Benjamin Botkin's classic collection *A Treasury of American Folklore* (Crown 1944), which featured a foreword written by Carl Sandburg and stories about Pecos Bill, Johnny Appleseed, Brer Rabbit and other popular myths, legends, and tall tales. Today, new legends are entering the folklore lexicon to reflect the influence of urban myths, historical events, science fiction, conspiracy theories, and mass media. This three-volume set offers a fascinating look at both traditional and newer folklore, including "Internet Hoaxes," the "John Lennon shooting," "Roswell," and "Slender Man."

Entries in the encyclopedia are arranged in alphabetical order, with a table of contents listing all entries in the front of each volume. Volume 3 contains a thorough and well-constructed subject and name index, as well as a list of editors and contributors. Each of the nearly five hundred entries gives an overview of the myth or legend, a brief bibliography, and cross references as appropriate. Special features include a brief time line of significant events in the world of folklore, transcripts of primary documents, numerous images, and sidebars from the editors offering interesting related topics. Entries cover not only individual stories, but also key people in the study and history of folklore and broad topics such as "Women in Folklore," "Fakelore," and "Racism in Urban Legends." In addition, particular emphasis is paid to cultural traditions that have received somewhat less coverage in other studies, including Asian and Pacific American, African American, Native American, and Hispanic American legends.

In addition to its well-researched and clearly written material, this set's easy-to-use indexes, table of contents and topic listings make it a good resource for high school students and early undergraduate researchers. *American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales* is a useful addition to public and college library reference collections.—Jennifer A. Bartlett, *Head of Reference Services, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky*

***Characters on the Couch: Exploring Psychology through Literature and Film.*** By Dean A. Haycock. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 334 p. Acid free \$68 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3698-5). Ebook available (978-1-4408-3699-2), call for pricing.

Inspired by what appears to be a growing trend for training mental health care professionals, the author (Dean A. Haycock, a freelance science and medical writer) conceived of this work as a resource guide to help students assess psychological conditions and psychiatric disorders using

fictional characters drawn from literature and film. The entries contain 101 profiles of mostly well-known fictional characters found in novels, novellas, short stories, plays, poems, graphic novels, comic books, and films. The characters' psychological profiles are highlighted by using key quotes to demonstrate their particular disorder. For example, the diagnosis of Dorian Gray in Oscar Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* from his uttering, "How sad it is! I shall grow old and horrible, and dreadful. But this picture will remain always young. . . . If only it were the other way!" (134) indicates that his most defining trait is (surprise!) narcissism. Charlie Brown, from the comic strip *Peanuts*, with his declaration, "My anxieties have anxieties" (146) is evidently a neurotic with avoidant personality disorder, and so forth. It may be helpful for the non-specialist to know that the arrangement of the selections in the "Mental and Personality Disorders" subdivision is presented in the order found in the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and that the six "Positive Psychological Traits" are those identified by Christopher Peterson and Martin Seligman in their pioneering work in the field of positive psychology.

The helpful appendixes contain lists of characters and their psychological traits, the VIA Classification of Character Strengths, a bibliography of sources consulted and recommended reading, and a glossary of psychological and literary terms. Users looking for a separate list of the works or characters referred to in this volume will need to consult the general index.

As best as this reviewer can tell, there is no other comparable work for this purpose and it is recommended for libraries supporting clinical psychology programs—Robin Imhof, *Humanities Librarian, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California*

***Conflict in Ancient Greece and Rome: The Definitive Political, Social, and Military Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Sara E. Phang, Iain Spence, Douglas Kelly, and Peter Londey. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 3 vols. Acid free. \$310.00 (ISBN 978-1-61069-019-5). E-book available (978-1-61069-020-1), call for pricing.

*The glory that was Greece, and the grandeur that was Rome.*  
—"To Helen" by Edgar Allen Poe

Classical civilization represents the foundation upon which rests all of modern-day Western society. The English language, in particular, is larded with allusions to the Greeks and Romans of yesteryear, from "Achilles's heel" to "*deus ex machina*" to "Trojan Horse," which make reference to the many influences that these cultures have had on our art, literature, theater, and, unfortunately, war and military (mis)adventures. For all these reasons, it behooves the modern reader to have at least a passing familiarity with what transpired all those thousands of years ago. The editors would appear to agree with this assessment, as they state

## SOURCES

in the "Preface" that this three-volume work "is intended to fill a gap in current reference works. It meets the need for a standard reference work on Greek and Roman military history and related institutions that is accessible to nonspecialists" (xxiii). Just what criteria the editors used in framing this statement is unknown; however, a literature search reveals many well-regarded titles covering this subject matter. From the topic-specific, such as John Warry's *Warfare in the Classical World: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Weapons, Warriors, and Warfare in the Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome* (University of Oklahoma Press 1995) to the more general, such as the venerable *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (Oxford University Press 2012), now in its fourth edition, there is certainly no shortage of print reference materials concerning warfare during the time of the Greek and Roman empires.

Be that as it may, the current work under review is well researched, clearly written, and designed for a wide audience, including senior high school/undergraduate college students and inquiring literate adults who wish to know more regarding this subject. As the subtitle suggests, there is more between these covers than a mere description of battles. Entries on "alcohol," "bribery and corruption," "coinage," "diplomacy," and many other ideas, issues, and influences that helped to shape armed conflict may be found here. The text is supplemented with black and white illustrations of arms, armor, battle sites, fortifications, and so on. As expected, entries are alphabetically arranged. Unexpected is the fact that the work is composed of two halves. All of volume 1 and the first half of volume 2 is dedicated to conflict in ancient Greece, with the remainder of the work devoted to conflict in ancient Rome. For those researchers concentrating on just one aspect of classical warfare, this eliminates a lot of unnecessary page flipping. Special features include a chronology, bibliography, maps, glossary, excerpts from primary documents, and a selection of quotations from those who did the fighting.

To keep this review to a reasonable length, it will suffice to say that all of the editors are well versed in their respective fields of classical studies and ancient military history. The contributors that wrote the individual articles are academics and independent scholars.

It is the considered opinion of this reviewer that *Conflict in Ancient Greece and Rome* would be an appropriate purchase for all public and academic libraries, especially those of the latter with a curriculum supporting classical studies or military history.—Michael F. Bemis, *Independent Reference Book Reviewer*

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***Endangered Species: A Documentary and Reference Guide.*** By Edward P. Weber. Documentary and Reference Guides. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 370 pages. Acid free \$108 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3656-5). E-book available (978-1-4408-3657-2), call for pricing.

This volume details the important items in the development of the concept of endangered species, from John Locke

to the current problems of the twenty-first century. Excerpts from more than fifty different significant documents appear, in roughly chronological order. The scope covers more than just endangered animals and plants, with related discussions on such items as water rights, utilitarianism, outdoor recreation, and climate change. Each chapter consists of the relevant sections of an essential document in the development of endangered species policy. Quotations from essays, actual congressional bills, speeches to Congress, executive orders and Supreme Court cases are among the featured items. Not all are easy to understand, especially the court cases, with their many case references. Each quoted item is followed by a one-page analysis explaining why the selection is considered noteworthy, as well as a brief list of further reading. Occasional "Did You Know" sidebars, briefly summarizing a particular problem that pertains to the subject of the chapter, provide clarifying information and/or examples. A small number of unindexed black and white illustrations seem to have been added as an afterthought, almost at random.

The first part examines early American ideas about conservation and wildlife extermination, up to approximately 1900, with the last selection covering Theodore Roosevelt and the conservation movement. The next discusses species protection from 1916 to 1970, with sections on Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, and the Wilderness Act of 1964. The third section, covering 1970–81, describes a turning point in the way endangered species were treated, this section highlights many cases, such as the protection of marine mammals, and the Clean Water Act. The following chapter provides selected "flashpoints" since 1981, such as spotted owls, gray wolves, and old growth forests.

The last two parts cover important international documents that address species lost around the world, and then new laws and problems of the current century. A comprehensive bibliography and index provide ease of use, as well as a reader's guide to related documents and sidebars. The introductory essay gives a comprehensive overview of the problem.

A badly chosen cover illustration misleads, as 90 percent of the book discusses American responses to endangered species, while the cover depicts African elephant tusks in Zambia, which subject appeared only in a short sidebar.

Recommended for undergraduate college libraries, suitable for high school libraries also but the high price may be a deterrent.—Marion S. Muskiewicz, *Science Librarian Emerita, University of Massachusetts Lowell*

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***Explorers of the American West: Mapping the World through Primary Documents.*** By Jay H. Buckley and Jeffrey D. Nokes. Mapping the World through Primary Documents. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 321 pages. Acid free \$100 (ISBN 978-1-61069-731-6). E-book available (978-1-61069-732-3), call for pricing.

Buckley and Nokes have brought together a thoughtful selection of primary sources from the early explorers of