

enigmatic notes, as in, for example, #2266, unaccompanied singer, Uncle Bradley Eberhard, Seabring, FL, 27 July 1940: “Eberhard was a work-crippled, 66-year-old African American; worked more than a quarter of a century in railroad work gangs and was still proud of his role as a singer when the men were laying track . . .”

Other than the works by the late author/compiler mentioned above, there are few recent reference sources of this kind. As the author notes, “it has become possible to create ‘designer’ collections via the Internet where individual tracks are downloaded from various sites” (16). The detailed notes provided for these rare recordings will be valuable to the blues and jazz roots devotees seeking access to the earliest and rarest creators of these genres.

Paired with online repositories of recorded sound such as the Alan Lomax Archive (<http://www.culturalequity.org/>), the American Folklife Center Online Collections (<https://www.loc.gov/folklife/onlinecollections.html>); the Archives of Traditional Music at Indiana University (<http://www.indiana.edu/~libarchm/index.php>) and others, the *Field Recordings of Black Singers and Musicians* is a useful guide for the scholar and aficionado. It would be a welcome addition to academic and public libraries serving serious students of traditional African and African American music.—Molly Molloy, *Border and Latin American Specialist*, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

The Jacksonian and Antebellum Eras: Documents Decoded.

By John R. Vile, Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 279 pages. Acid free \$81 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4981-7). E-book available (978-1-4408-4982-4), call for pricing.

Many, though not all, of the public domain speeches, letters, and resolutions contained in this work are available on the World Wide Web, often with contextual information and commentary. Why, then, do we need a collection of primary sources such as this?

Vile says that his purpose throughout the Documents Decoded series is to “combine edited primary documents with commentary and annotations that are suitable for high school and college students and for citizens who want to get a better perspective of various issues and historical periods” (ix). *Perspective* is the key word here, and Vile succeeds in providing this through the scope of the work. He has gathered here a sufficient variety of sources and perspectives to provide a reader with a sense of the complexity and the important voices in major political and social issues in the United States from 1829 to 1861. His commentary and annotations do succeed in clarifying the sometimes quaint nineteenth-century language, in making the implicit explicit, and in providing useful context.

The work is divided into three major sections: “The Jacksonian Years,” covering 1829 to 1836; “Years of Expansion, Nascent Reform, and Manifest Destiny,” covering 1837 to 1849; and “Prelude to Irrepressible Conflict,” covering 1850 to 1861. The sections contain seventeen, fourteen, and

twenty-one primary documents, respectively. Some examples of writers included in this work are Daniel Webster, John Ross, Martin Van Buren, Margaret Fuller, Frederick Douglass, Henry David Thoreau, John C. Calhoun, and Sojourner Truth. In addition to speeches and essays by persons such as these, Vile includes some official documents such as the Texas Declaration of Independence, the court opinion in *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*, and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The voices in the volume provide necessary diversity, including women and minorities, key figures, varying geographical perspectives, and opposing views.

Each entry includes a one-paragraph introduction that sets the context. Vile’s commentary appears as marginal notes that help clarify the documents’ context and language. Each note corresponds to a passage of text that is highlighted in gray. This highlighting is, however, unnecessary and annoying, making the text more difficult to see.

The work contains a helpful chronology of events in the years covered by the volume, a useful bibliography of suggested readings, and a thorough index. The hardcover volume is attractive but not pretentious, in keeping with most ABC-CLIO publications.

When compared to a free internet collection of primary sources, such as American Rhetoric’s *Online Speech Bank* <https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speechbank.htm> and other internet resources, Vile’s work provides a useful focus on a well-defined period in American history, the perspective that comes with careful curation and intentional balance, and consequently a much more complete view of the Jacksonian and antebellum eras than a researcher could easily obtain by searching online. His work does indeed belong on the reference shelves of public, high school, and university libraries.—Steven R. Edscorn, *Executive Director of Libraries*, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

The Opioid Crisis: A Reference Handbook. By David E. Newton. Contemporary World Issues. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018. 258 pages. Acid-free \$60 (ISBN 978-1-4408-6435-3). E-book available (978-1-4408-6436-0), call for pricing.

The opioid crisis has been a topic of much concern for much of the last decade, and it has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. The CDC estimates that 115 people per day die from overdosing on opioids, and countless articles, news stories, social media accounts, and television programs have documented the destruction. This latest volume in ABC-CLIO’s Contemporary World Issues series, authored by David E. Newsome, a prolific writer with an EdD in science education, tackles the history, epidemiology, and controversies surrounding the twenty-first century public health crisis.

Adhering to the format of other titles in this series, *The Opioid Crisis* has seven sections that cover the background and history of the topic; problems, controversies, and solutions surrounding the epidemic; perspectives of individuals

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whose lives in some way have been touched by opioid addiction; a section of profiles on organizations and individuals who have made contributions to the development, study, and treatment of opioids and their abuse; and supporting data and documents. A section on resources and a chronology complete the volume. The prose is clear and written with the general reader in mind, so it is easily accessible to the layperson. This is especially evident in the section on background and history, which gives an excellent overview of both the history of opioid development and use and a good general introduction on opioid chemistry and pharmacology. The “Problems, Controversies, and Solutions” section does well in balancing the alarming consequences of opioid misuse while discussing the positive role these drugs have in chronic pain and disease management. Particularly powerful is the “Perspectives” section, which allows the reader to hear firsthand accounts of people who have been in some way involved in or affected by opioid use and addiction. The resources section consists of an annotated bibliography of citations to recently published books, articles, and websites for further study and investigation, and a final chronology helps give opioid use a historical perspective. A glossary and index are also included.

As noted in the resource section, a number of books have recently been published on opioid addiction and its effect on American society. Victor Stolberg’s *Painkillers: History, Science and Issues* in ABC-CLIO’s *Story of a Drug* series (Greenwood, 2016) covers some of the same ground, but it does not concentrate on the opioid crisis in particular. Other books, such as Martin Booth’s *Opium: A History* (St. Martin’s Griffin, 1999) or Sam Quinones’s *Dreamland* (Bloomsbury, 2015) deal with one particular aspect of opioid history and use but are not useful for a general overview of the subject. Given its wide coverage of the opioid crisis, the well-researched nature of the volume, and the easily accessible writing style for general readers, this is a very good one-volume resource for nonspecialists, high school and undergraduate students, and the general public.—*Amanda K. Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri*

Shakespeare’s World: The Tragedies. By Douglas J. King. Historical Exploration of Literature. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 225 pages. Acid-free \$63 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5794-2). E-book available (978-1-4408-5795-9), call for pricing.

If you’ve ever been curious about the authenticity of references to plague in *Romeo and Juliet*, or wondered how Elizabethans treated melancholia, considered witchcraft, or treated actors, the resources in *Shakespeare’s World* will help you think like a Renaissance man or woman. This recent addition to Greenwood’s Historical Exploration of Literature series situates four of Shakespeare’s tragedies within the contemporary history of Renaissance England. In order to contextualize broad social considerations that the Bard’s audience recognized, the volume includes primary sources

and additional references that will engage any student of new historicism or reader interested in a broader picture of society and social concerns of the day.

While individual components, including play synopsis and background, brief essays on specific topics relating to Elizabethan society and life, and primary sources, may be pieced together through a combination of sources such as *Magill’s Survey of World Literature* (Salem Press, 2009), the *Dictionary of Literary Biography Complete Online* (Gale, 2018), and free internet archives, the strength of this title lies in King’s successful weaving of literature and history. A historical exploration of each play points out similarities and differences between current society and that of the past, effectively introducing the social considerations explored in the context of each play.

Carefully excerpted sources highlight widely held beliefs, giving insight into the original audience and offering potential paths of inquiry for undergraduate researchers. For example, topics examined in relation to Julius Caesar include “Julius Caesar as Seen by Renaissance Britons,” “The Nature of Monarchy in Renaissance England,” and “Warfare in Renaissance England.” Suggested readings save a researcher time by recommending additional titles for deeper exploration, although some suggestions may be difficult to locate based on their age.

This title does a commendable job teasing out ways for modern audiences to (re)connect to plays that are standard in many high school curricula. It is a good fit for high school and college libraries, especially those that cater to liberal arts or humanities.—*Amy F. Fyn, Coordinator of Library Instruction, Kimbel Library, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina*

Terrorism: The Essential Reference Guide. Edited by Colin P. Clarke. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018. 346 pages. Acid-free \$94 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5628-0). E-book available (978-1-4408-5629-7), call for pricing.

If you’ve been so numbed by the terror attacks of recent decades that you can’t keep track of them, Dr. Clarke (Rand Corporation) is here to help you. He summarizes the long and controversial history of even defining terrorism—much less dealing with it—in a series of introductory essays, but the bulk of this volume is an encyclopedia of modern terrorism.

From the unforgettable 9/11 attacks to the long-gone Baader-Meinhof Gang, there are more than one hundred entries about the actors and organizations that have used murderous violence to force the global community to pay attention to them. The entries reflect a broad understanding of terrorism; many entries involve groups that wage long, ideological terror campaigns around the world, but others address purely domestic American lone wolf terrorists such as Dylann Roof and Ted Kaczynski.

Because this is a reference guide, it can be easy to miss the connections between the topics, but Clarke helps readers