

Sources

Reference Books

Anita J. Slack, Editor

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Astrology Through History: Interpreting the Stars from Ancient Mesopotamia to the Present. Edited by William F. Burns. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018. 401 pages. Acid-free \$94 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5121-1), call for pricing.

This work differs from most existing reference works about astrology in two significant ways. First, as the title suggests, the focus is historical, tracing significant developments in astrology from ancient times to present and in a variety of cultures. Second, this work approaches astrology from a standpoint that is neither skeptical nor apologetic. The work would be as interesting to the critical skeptic as to the enthusiastic adherent. This work is an exploration of human attempts to find meaning in the heavenly bodies we observe in the sky.

The single volume contains 115 essays that are usually 2–3 pages in length. The essays are signed and provide “see also” references and useful bibliographies for further reading. Many of the essays are biographical. Some examples of biographical topics are “Evangeline Adams,” “Pythagoras of Samos,” “Carl G. Jung,” and “Bangalore Venkata Raman.” Some other topics include information related to the skies, such as “Fixed Stars”; astrology in times and places, such as “Mesoamerican Astrology”; astrology in society topics, such as “Court Astrologers”; astrological terms and tools, such as “Hamburg School of Astrology”; and a discussion of astrology and media, such as “Indian Cinema.”

Articles are clearly written with the layperson in mind and are quite readable, yet they are also obviously informed by scholarship. Contributors regularly refer to primary sources, define jargon, and place the topics in context. Particularly informative is the five-page introduction written by Burns and the timeline that follows. These provide a concise flyover to the history of astrology that draws one into the rest of the work.

The work includes a small number of grayscale photographs and reproduced artwork. It has an extensive index. The cover is an attractive hardback featuring a time-lapse photograph of stars above Stonehenge.

Astrology Through History is interesting and readable enough to find its place in a browsing collection, and informative enough to find itself in a reference collection. It would fit well in high school, public, and academic libraries. —Steven R. Edscorn, Executive Director of Libraries, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

RUSQ considers for review reference books and professional materials of interest to reference and user services librarians. Serials and subscription titles normally are not reviewed unless a major change in purpose, scope, format, or audience has occurred. Reviews usually are three hundred to five hundred words in length. Views expressed are those of the reviewers and do not necessarily represent those of ALA. Please refer to standard directories for publishers' addresses.

Correspondence concerning these reviews should be addressed to “Reference Sources” editor, Anita J. Slack, Liaison and Instruction Librarian, Capital University 1 College and Main Columbus, OH 43209 email: aslack8@capital.edu.

The Bathroom: A Social History of Cleanliness and the Body. By Alison K. Hoagland. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 192 pages. Acid free \$39.00 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5266-4). Ebook Available (978-1-4408-5267-1), call for pricing.

Alison Hoagland has written a thought-provoking book on the history of the smallest room in the house that no one talks about. *The Bathroom: A Social History of Cleanliness and the Body*, delves into the history, evolution, psychology, and socioeconomic implications of the American bathroom

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and its development from the Civil War onwards. She demonstrates how much of the discourse around cleanliness, sanitation, consumerism, and technology has come to be centered on the bathroom in the United States, and discusses the many forms this takes in advertising, public health, and urban and rural infrastructure.

The book begins with a brief overview of the history of the bathroom, from its earliest appearance in China and the Indus Valley through the Roman period and the Middle Ages to the mid-nineteenth century. In the following chapters, she traces the evolution of the American bathroom through different themes such as sanitation, technology, privacy, inequality, and personal care. Through each chapter she describes how the bathroom revealed how Americans perceived issues such as privacy, cleanliness, and personal autonomy, and evolved from a luxury of the rich to a staple of the middle class to a public health necessity for all. The book is jammed with interesting tidbits, for example, that Baltimore was the last major city to build a sewage system, and that the rise of modern-day advertising can be traced to early efforts by soap companies to sell their products. A chronology and glossary help define terms and set the historical context, and a rich bibliography is included for those who wish to delve deeper into the subject. Photographs judiciously used throughout the text and an index round out this compact little volume.

This is the first scholarly work devoted to the American bathroom, and it is a fascinating read. A part of Greenwood's History of Human Spaces series, it is an affordable and well-researched volume that should find a home in every library, but would be particularly useful for college and university libraries with architecture, sociology, anthropology, or public health researchers.—*Amanda K. Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, The University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri*

The Bizarre World of Reality Television. Edited by Stuart Lenig. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2017. 332 pages. \$89 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3854-5). Ebook Available (978-1-4408-3588-2), call for pricing.

The Bizarre World of Reality Television explores the origins, rapid progression, and quirky contents of reality television programming. Written by Stuart Lenig (Columbia State Community College), this unique and compact work is an entertaining read that dissects reality television through a post-modernistic lens, detailing the economic, cultural, and social factors.

The work chronicles more than 100 important reality television shows from the medium's early beginnings with *An American Family*, *Star Search*, and *That's Incredible!* to current and long-running shows such as *The Bachelor* and *American Idol*. Television personalities such as Anthony Bourdain and Bethenny Frankel, as well as significant television channels (HGTV and TLC) are also highlighted. The scope of the book is somewhat limited and it is not intended to provide comprehensive coverage of reality television.

Still, it fills a hole in reference sources that delve into this aspect of media.

Lenig organizes the entries across five chapters and begins each chapter with an introductory essay that provides background analysis for each type of reality television program examined. The chapters cover self-improvement and home transformation shows; competition and talent shows; personal lives; dating and matchmaking shows; and international reality television programs. Each entry provides a program history and synopsis, reasons for the show's popularity, cross-references, and a further readings bibliography. Lenig ends the book with a concluding essay about the future of reality television, bibliography, and a useful index.

Bizarre World is recommended for public libraries and academic libraries with programs in popular culture, media studies, and sociology.—*Colleen Lougen, Serials and Electronic Resources Librarian, SUNY New Paltz*

Black Lives Matter: From a Moment to a Movement. By Laurie Collier Hillstrom. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 164 pages. Acid-free \$39 (ISBN 978-1-4408-6570-1). E-book Available (978-1-4408-6571-8), call for pricing.

The Black Lives Matter movement began as a social media hashtag (#BlackLivesMatter) by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullers, and Opal Tometi to bring awareness when George Zimmerman was acquitted in the fatal shooting of Tayvon Martin in 2012. It gained momentum in 2014 after the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, with nationwide protests against the growing pattern of police-involved shootings of unarmed African American men. Social media has allowed the movement to organically grow by sharing videos, observations, and information.

This book is well researched and documented. It is a factual account of the people, places, and events of the Black Lives Matter movement. This book correctly situates the Black Lives Matter movement within the long history of racism in America. At 164 pages, this is not a long book, which is appropriate based on the relative newness of the formal Black Lives Matter movement. This length and the relatively small physical size of the book (6" x 9") is conducive to student checkout.

Without question, the book reflects that the Black Lives Matter movement is about people. The primary documents section is primarily speeches by New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, Eric Holder, and other officials after the investigations of police shootings of African American men. There is one intelligence report from the FBI. This section needed a brief introduction for context. The biographical sketches section provides good information on the people involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. This is a good starting point for students who want to do further research. The index emphasizes people involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. The timeline is an excellent overview of important topics in racism with good detail of the incidents within the Black Lives Matter movement. There is strong