

SOURCES

Each entry contains information gleaned largely from primary sources, particularly newspaper reports and speeches, as well as some “key secondary print and online texts” (1), mainly encyclopedic and reference sources. Many of the book’s entries provide background and detailed coverage. Compare, for example, the entry on “Independence Day Rock, Wyoming” to that of one of the more popular encyclopedia resources today, *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Rock_\(Wyoming\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Rock_(Wyoming))), and readers will see why the former is more thorough.

As thorough and comprehensive as *The Fourth of July Encyclopedia* is in covering how the day has been commemorated in United States history, some readers may wish for even more details and references. The book’s bibliography cites twenty-three sources, including *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (University Microfilms, 1967), *The Encyclopedia Americana* (Grolier, 1999), and *The Encyclopedia of American History: Bicentennial Edition* (Harper and Row, 1976). It would have been useful to cite more recent scholarly work on the history of July Fourth in America, such as W. Caleb McDaniels’ 2005 article in *American Quarterly* and James Colaiaco’s *Frederick Douglass and the Fourth of July* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006). To his credit, Heintze does cite some solid scholarly work within many of the entries in the book. Also, it would have been interesting to include some entries on how the holiday is perceived by other countries and by more ethnicities, such as Asian-Americans, or how it has been portrayed in other media (Oliver Stone’s 1989 *Born on the Fourth of July*, for example). Heintze’s companion Web site, *Fourth of July Celebrations Database* (www.american.edu/heintze/fourth.htm), arranges sources categorically. Readers would be greatly benefited by consulting this extensive and—hopefully—growing database.

One also can think of even more entries that could have been included, such as food (hot dog eating in particular) or baseball. One also can quibble on certain entries’ wording and amount of coverage. Why, for example, is the entry for George H. W. Bush longer than those for Presidents Carter or McKinley? The entry on the Civil War describes it as, “the single most significant event of the nineteenth century” (59). Some historians might argue that the Napoleonic Wars were at least equally significant.

Heintze, being the sole author, has undertaken a large task in covering a topic so complex and rich in history. The book serves as an excellent resource for academics, from middle-school students to post-secondary researchers, and as a strong introductory resource for historians interested in pursuing this subject.—Richard Wisneski, *Archival Assistant, University of Akron Archival Services, Ohio*

Great Events from History: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Events, 1846–2006. Ed. by Lillian Faderman et al. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2007. 2 vols. acid free \$160 (ISBN 1-58765-263-3).

Edited by well-known specialists in gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) studies, this two-volume work con-

taining 150 entries by academics or independent scholars, is clearly aimed at an undergraduate audience. The writing in the entries is clear, if occasionally in need of a little editorial refinement, and each topic is placed in historic context. The publisher’s note states that, “Most of the essays published here were originally commissioned by Salem Press for inclusion in [the database] GLBT Life Full Text” (ix). Libraries that subscribe to this database and plan to continue to do so probably will not want to consider this print version, though it contains “newly commissioned materials, primary source documents,” (ix) and illustrations not found online.

The book is arranged in chronological order. Every entry includes alternate titles or names, key figures (some of which include dates or partial dates), a summary of events, and significance. The “Further Readings” section includes primary and secondary sources, with very few Web sites listed, and the “see also” section refers the reader to other entries in this book. There is an overabundance of indexes, which appear only in the second volume. One wonders about the need for a personages index when there is already a subject index that includes people. Both volumes provide a keyword list of contents and an alphabetic list of sidebars.

Though this book does not necessarily focus on “firsts,” there are a number of them, such as the “first gay and lesbian synagogue” in the United States (1972, in Los Angeles) and the “first lesbian and gay history anthology,” which was Jonathan Ned Katz’s *Gay American History* (Crowell, 1976), a classic reference work that has been reprinted. Broad topic areas include theatre, film (for example, “*The Wedding Banquet* is the First Acclaimed Taiwanese Gay-Themed Film” in the 1993 section), medicine (for example, “AZT Treats People with AIDS” in the 1986 section), and politics. Multicultural and transgender issues figure prominently in more recent years, such as the 1986 entry for the first newsletter for GLBT South Asians, *Trikone*, later *Trikone Magazine*. Entries cover both good and bad news: “Transgender Rights Added to New York City Law” and “Transgender Teen Gwen Araujo Is Murdered in California” both describe events from 2002.

Many of the entries are for GLBT literature and GLBT writers. For example, Gertrude Stein is included for her book *Q.E.D.* (written in the early years of the twentieth century and published fifty years later), which *Great Events* calls “the first modern lesbian novel by any author” (43). Though there are bound to be differences of opinion among literary critics about who really wrote the first such novel, Stein is certainly the best-known modern female candidate. There are many other quality reference sources that cover GLBT literature, such as *The Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage* (Routledge, rev. ed., 2002). There is a fair amount of duplication between *Great Events from History: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Events, 1846–2006*, and such other reference books as *The Gay Rights Movement* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001), which is part of the *New York Times* 20th Century in Review series, and *LGBT: Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History in America* (Thomson Gale, 2004).

This book is recommended to public and academic libraries lacking other up-to-date sources, or to those where online access is problematic. Its cost, and the availability of competing reference books covering similar topics, as well as online databases that contain the same material, make it an optional purchase for libraries with comprehensive GLBT collections.—*Martha E. Stone, Coordinator for Reference Services, Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston*

Homelessness Handbook. Ed. by David Levinson and Marcy Ross. Great Barrington, Mass.: Berkshire, 2007. 465p. alkaline \$135 (ISBN 1-933782-03-X).

Homelessness Handbook is a comprehensive source focusing on the psychological, social, historical, and physical concerns of the homeless in the United States and the world. The book provides detailed articles written by experts in the field, alongside an intermingling of facts and figures, photographs and illustrations, quotes, and terms.

The articles are split up into eight sections: historical topics, such as the Great Depression; statistics and demographic groups, such as veterans; life issues, including health problems and survival strategies; the perceptions of the homeless captured in the media; the causes of homelessness; prevention programs and other solutions for alleviating homelessness; homelessness profiles in United States cities, including St. Louis and Washington D.C.; and profiles of different countries and cities in the world, including Japan and Calcutta.

The articles are interesting and generally run three to six pages in length. This is the kind of reference book that could be read from cover to cover because it is so well-written and covers a social problem that just about everyone has encountered. Each article has a bibliography of further readings that includes harder-to-find materials, such as print and electronic government documents, as well as many scholarly, peer-reviewed articles. The book also contains a short glossary of terms and a list of pertinent organizations.

It is important to compare this work to the two-volume *The Encyclopedia of Homelessness* (Berkshire, 2004), also edited by David Levinson. *Homelessness Handbook* contains many of the same entries verbatim. For example, the entry for African-Americans in the *Encyclopedia* is just about the same as the article in the *Handbook*, except for the addition of a sidebar article on “Slavery and the Homeless.” In the introduction to the *Handbook*, the editors insist that it is a “completely new work” that “distills, reorganizes, and updates portions of the encyclopedia’s content” (xi).

The new format and added articles do create a new, but similar, reference work. While the *Encyclopedia* presents somewhat disconnected entries in alphabetical order, the *Handbook* exhibits a more coherently ordered stream of information through its sections of related topics. For example, the section on “Lifestyles and Life Issues” in the new *Handbook* gives the reader eighty pages of connected information about such topics as “survival strategies,” “alcohol and drugs,” and “living on the margins.” In the *Encyclopedia*, these entries

would have been split up between the two volumes, with hundreds of pages separating them.

Although there is some duplication between the two reference books, the new *Handbook* does an excellent job of reorganizing the information and updating it with many new topics, including information on Hurricane Katrina. The *Encyclopedia* does contain more information that is left out of the new *Handbook*, so libraries should not withdraw the *Encyclopedia* and treat the *Handbook* as a replacement edition.

Overall, this resource is a useful tool for the researcher, student, librarian, or community member. It will assist anyone who is concerned about the homeless epidemic in the United States and the world. Recommended for public and college libraries.—*Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz*

Latinos in the Arts. By Steven Otfinoski. A to Z of Latino Americans. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 288p. alkaline \$44 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6394-9).

Latinos in the Arts by Steven Otfinoski, author of other Facts On File publications, including *African-Americans in the Performing Arts* (2003) and *African-Americans in the Visual Arts* (2003), offers profiles on 178 Latino performing and visual artists. Otfinoski notes that this work does not provide an exhaustive list of Latino artists, but rather those selected “have been pioneers or innovators in their field” and “reflect Latino culture and traditions” (vii–viii). Individuals of Spanish and Brazilian descent are included, though entries are limited to those who were born in the United States or lived here permanently after emigrating from a Latin country.

Profiles in *Latinos in the Arts* are included for such popular singers and actors as Cristina Aguilera, Jennifer Lopez, and Edward James Olmos, as well as less-prominent figures, such as muralist and commercial artist Willie Herron and photographer, painter, and video artist Alma Lopez. Some entries include a black-and-white photograph of the profiled individual. Entries range from one to two pages and include lists for further reading as well as further listening and further viewing when appropriate. It should be noted that some further reading lists rely on Internet-based resources, including *The Internet Movie Database* (www.imdb.com) and *Wikipedia* (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>), the latter being a questionable source to include in a reference work bibliography.

Preceding the general index, artists are grouped within three helpful categories that provide additional means of access to the alphabetically listed profiles. They include: “Entries by Area of Activity,” “Entries by Year of Birth,” and “Entries by Ethnicity or Country of Origin.”

In the last three years, several encyclopedias on Latinos and Latino culture have been published. These include *Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia* (Indiana Univ. Pr., 2006), edited by Viki L. Ruiz and Virginia Sánchez Korrol; *Encyclopedia Latina: History, Culture, and Society in the United States* (Grolier Academic Reference, 2005), edited by Ilan Stavans; *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in*