

## SOURCES

folk artists outside of the visual arts will find helpful Alan Govenar's *Masters of Traditional Arts: A Biographical Dictionary* (ABC-CLIO, 2001). Written with a general audience in mind, *American Folk Art: A Regional Reference* is an appropriate purchase for just about any library.—Nevin J. Mayer, *Coordinator of Instruction, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio*

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***Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: Heroes and Superheroes.*** Ed. by Bart H. Beaty and Stephen Weiner. Critical Survey. Ipswich, MA: Salem, 2012. 2 vols. \$295 (ISBN 978-1-58765-865-5). Online access included with purchase of print.

*Heroes & Superheroes*, the first title in the *Critical Survey of Graphic Novels* series from Salem Press, provides detailed analysis of important works of graphic fiction published from the Silver Age of comics to the present. As most readers might assume from the book's title, *Heroes & Superheroes* covers stories featuring the costumed characters that have become synonymous with comic books and graphic novels, such as: Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, and Captain America. The survey also includes lesser known and less traditional characters. Here one can find analysis of graphic novels featuring the anti-heroes of DC Comics' Vertigo Line such as *Hellblazer* and *Preacher*. Attention is also given to the works of many prominent independent author/artists such as Mike Mignola (*Hellboy*), Mike Allred (*Madman*), Jeff Smith (*Bone*), and Sergio Aragonés (*Groo the Wanderer*).

Entries are organized alphabetically by the title of the work. Author, artist, and publisher credits are listed for each work. Also included are first publication dates for both serial and book formats, since most of the titles covered were published in periodical comic book format before being compiled into graphic novels. Each entry includes the publication history of the title, providing information on the various formats in which the title was published; a detailed synopsis of the work's plot; a list of the work's main characters, including descriptions of their physical appearances and their personalities; an analysis of the style employed by the artist and what effect the style had upon the story; the themes with which the work deals; and a discussion of the work's impact in terms of how it was received by the public, its effect on the comics industry, and its aesthetic influence on the comics medium. Readers may locate specific graphic novels by the table of contents or by lists of works arranged by author, by artist, and by publisher. Another useful inclusion is a list of major comics industry awards and the winners for each year in which the awards were given.

This reviewer found the format of *Heroes & Superheroes* to be well-organized and very intuitive. The entries, written by over forty contributors, are of a consistently high quality, offering analysis and criticism that is both insightful and accessible. The diversity of titles covered is also quite impressive. The only weakness is the omission of particular works that readers and historians widely consider to be among the most important and influential. For example, entries on the 1960s collaborations of Stan Lee and Jack Kirby (such as *The*

*Fantastic Four*) are not included. Collected editions of the first Spider-Man stories by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko are also not included, although these important Silver Age works would have been within the survey's stated scope of coverage.

*Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: Heroes and Superheroes* is recommended for academic and public libraries. Although recent years have seen the publication of several admirable reference works devoted to comic books and graphic novels, such as M. Keith Booker's *Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels* (Greenwood, 2010), *Heroes & Superheroes* is a unique offering. It contains more detailed analysis and interpretation of important stories, thereby providing support for in-depth research.—Edward Whatley, *Instruction and Reference Librarian, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, Georgia*

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***Encyclopedia of Right-Wing Extremism in Modern American History.*** By Stephen E. Atkins. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2011. 345 pages. acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-59884-350-7). E-book available (978-1-59884-351-4), call for pricing.

The late Stephen Atkins has a number of books on terrorism and extremism to his credit. His last book, *The Encyclopedia of Right-Wing Extremism in Modern American History*, was completed posthumously by his wife and children. Among his previous titles are *Terrorism: a Reference Handbook* (ABC-CLIO, 1992), *The 9/11 Encyclopedia* (Praeger Security International, 2008), *Holocaust Denial as an International Movement* (Praeger, 2009), and works on atomic energy and related issues (*Historical Encyclopedia of Atomic Energy*, Greenwood, 2000; *Arms Control and Disarmament, Defense and Military, International Security and Peace*, ABC-CLIO, 1989). *Encyclopedia of Right-Wing Extremism in Modern American History* may at first glance appear to be more of a second edition of his *Encyclopedia of Modern American Extremists and Extremist Groups* (Greenwood, 2002), but it does, in fact, focus more narrowly on the right-wing and the various shades of extremism exhibited by groups embracing this ideology.

Extremism in America is not going away. Atkins defines extremist groups as those that seek radical change and defense of privilege (xii). Atkins quotes data (xiii) from the Southern Poverty Law Center which indicate that over 960 groups which fit the definition of extremist were operating in the United States as late as 2008, with a noticeable spike in Ku Klux Klan organization and the establishment of patriot groups between 2007 and 2008. The SPLC website documents nearly 120 hate incidents for 2012 alone, with actions ranging from vandalism and intimidation to assault, including burning a cross on a lawn in South Carolina in March (<http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/hate-incidents?year=2012&state=All>). With this type and volume of activity, an encyclopedia on American extremists is called for.

The book is divided into three parts: "American White Supremacist and Neo-Nazi Movements," "Christian Identity, Christian Reconstructionism and Other Right-wing Religious

Movements,” and “Anti-American Government Extremists.” Each section then includes detailed descriptions of the groups which fall into each category. The entries tend to be quite long and are heavily footnoted. The Ku Klux Klan chapter, which opens the book, runs to nearly thirty pages with more than 180 footnotes. There is an extensive bibliography and a detailed index. The entries are fascinating to read, if more than a little frightening.

This latest work also includes groups not named in *Modern American Extremists* and, for those that are, these latest entries are much more detailed. By the same token, *Modern American Extremists* includes a broader range of groups, including the anti-abortion movement, Greenpeace, Ervil LeBaron, who was leader of the Church of the Lamb of God, and the Black Panthers, which are not included in *Right-Wing Extremism*.

*The Encyclopedia of Right-Wing Extremism in Modern American History* compares favorably with other works in the field, such as D.J. Mulloy's *American Extremism* (Routledge, 2004), Neil Hamilton's *Militias in America* (ABC-CLIO, 1996), and *Right-Wing Populism in America* by Chip Berlet and Matthew N. Lyons (Guildford Press, 2000), although these works are narratives and better suited to the general collection. Recommended for the reference collections of public and academic libraries as well as for high school libraries.—Carla Wilson Buss, *Curriculum Materials & Education Librarian, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, Georgia*

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***Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture.*** Ed. by James S. Baugess and Abbe Debolt, Santa Barbara CA: Greenwood, 2012. (ISBN 978-0-313-32944-9) E-book also available.

This two-volume encyclopedia edited by James S. Baugess and Abbe Debolt is a comprehensive overview of important aspects including individuals, groups, movements, and ideas popular in the 1960s. This encyclopedia includes entries contributed by many scholars from the Ivy League, Europe, and Canada. The editors state in the preface that this encyclopedia is designed to provide readers with knowledge of the issues, movements, and American history of the 1960s. The editors also state that one major difference between this encyclopedia and others of its kind is that where previous encyclopedias have stressed “the life and times of the New Left and the eccentricities of the period” this encyclopedia discusses both counter culture and traditional culture (xxix).

The set includes almost five hundred entries and is categorized alphabetically. Although alphabetical categorizing is acceptable, it would be nice to see an encyclopedia categorized by subject, like music or politics, which might make it easier to browse. There is also a list of chronological events users can use as an overview at the beginning of each volume along with the table of contents. Although the chronological list is not exhaustive, it does highlight key events that happened in the 1960s. Topics range from pop culture events like American Bandstand to serious political events like the

Vietnam War. Entries vary from one paragraph to a few pages in length. Some entries are accompanied by images however all are in black and white. This is slightly disappointing since some of the images on the cover are in color.

Overall, the *Encyclopedia of the Sixties* succeeds in its attempt to serve as an academic tool about important aspects of the 1960s by providing concise and exciting descriptions of events and issues making readers want to learn more. Although there is a slight gap in the existing literature that this encyclopedia fills with its extensive coverage, there have been other encyclopedias about the sixties that have taken a different approach on the subject. Chris Strooder's *The Encyclopedia of Sixties Cool: A Celebration of the Grooviest People, Events, and Artifacts of the 1960s* (Santa Monica Press, 2007), takes a less academic approach when describing the era. This encyclopedia includes a less comprehensive overview of the sixties with two hundred and fifty entries but does include a “what happened this day” calendar which users may find interesting. Although there is some overlap in Strooder's encyclopedia there are also references to movies and artifacts not mentioned in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties*.

One of the major strengths of this encyclopedia is that it includes an annotated bibliography allowing users to do further research and find primary sources if they wish to do so. Brief annotations can be found at the end of the second volume while bibliographies can be found at the end of each entry. Following the annotated bibliography, users can read about the authors and contributors or look through the index. Since this encyclopedia is to be used as an academic tool, it would be a great addition to reference collections in academic libraries.—Jasmine L. Jefferson, *Reference and Instruction Librarian, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

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***Encyclopedia of Tudor England.*** Edited by John A. Wagner and Susan Walters Schmid. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 3 vols. Acid free \$294 (ISBN 978-1-59884-298-2). E-book (978-1-59884-299-9).

This fascinating three-volume set by John A. Wagner and Susan Walters Schmid contains 900 captivating entries covering people, events, terms, ideas, and institutions relating to the Tudor era. Its scope spans the entire Tudor period (1485–1603), with coverage of influences from the pre-Tudor age and the Jacobean period (after 1603). The set's geographic reach extends to the British Isles, America, Asia, Russia, and the most important states of continental Europe.

Of the 900 entries, 750 are revised and updated from two earlier works—*The Historical Dictionary of the Elizabethan World* (1999) and *Bosworth Field to Bloody Mary* (2003), also published by ABC-CLIO—with the inclusion of 150 new entries. This updated reference set offers the reader an exhaustive overview of a vibrant period and its motley cast of personalities. It is truly a pleasure to casually wade through the volumes and discover an entertaining story or a provocative figure.

This enhanced reference set begins with a “List of Entries” and a “Guide to Related Topics” which list related entries