

Outstanding Reference Sources: The 1995 selection of recent titles

BY DALE F. LUCHSINGER

Distinguished reference works selected by the Reference Sources Committee of ALA's Reference and Adult Services Division.

A blockbuster snowfall kicked off ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia Feb. 3-9 but the nine members of the Reference Sources Committee didn't seem to mind the winter weather and met in five sessions throughout the conference to discuss and decide which titles would make it to the final list of outstanding sources.

The Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD) committee has a dual charge: First, it aims to provide a list of new, high-quality reference works that are suitable for small to medium-sized libraries; second, it looks for sources that are examples of useful and often unique reference titles. The final outstanding list includes 29 titles that were published during 1994. Only two titles in the group were published near the end of the previous year and held over to be included in this list.

Committee members spend a year examining and discussing the current crop of reference sources. Literally hundreds of titles are discussed, examined, and considered for selection as outstanding titles. E-mail enhanced the opportunities for discussion of titles, along with telephone conversations, snail mail, and face-to-face discussions with colleagues at the Annual Conference, Midwinter, regional meetings, and library workplaces. Reference Sources Committee members use

DALE F. LUCHSINGER has been director of library and media services at Athens (Ga.) Area Technical Institute since 1987. As committee chair he is responsible for the introduction and edited annotations written by committee members.

reviews, catalogs, and publisher announcements and exhibits to track down sources for consideration for the final selections.

CD-ROM products continue to be a significant factor in information retrieval in many libraries. This past year the prices began to drop, and many products appeared on the market. Two CD-ROM products were examined by the entire committee and one was selected for the final list. The *McGraw-Hill Multimedia Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* is a winner and would be useful for providing current scientific and technical information for young adults as well as adult users.

Winning titles this year represented information sources with a wide subject range from cowboys to vaudeville. Among the popular subjects represented are American presidential politics, fishing, black history, Native Americans, the environment, sign language, and human behavior.

Titles that seem useful for young adult browsing or student term papers include *American Decades*, *Astrology Encyclopedia*, *Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues*, *Black Firsts*, *Cowboy Encyclopedia*, *Encyclopedia of the Horse*, *How Products Are Made*, and *Running for President*.

Dartmouth winner selected

Simon and Schuster's *Encyclopedia of the American Presidency* won the prestigious 1995 Dartmouth Medal "to honor achievement in creating reference works outstanding in quality and significance." It was also a unanimous choice by the Reference Sources Committee as a title for this list. The 1995 Dartmouth Medal will be presented at the RASD awards reception during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

Publishers have continued to show keen interest in the work of the Reference Sources Committee by attending committee meetings, which are open to visitors, and by providing review copies of sources for committee members. Publishers are open to hearing criticisms as well as accolades about their work. Their

interest in useful, high-quality reference titles has enhanced the availability of new titles that are part of the annual publishing scene.

The committee recognizes that omissions may be inevitable in a selection process that is a committee effort. Highly specialized sources, updates, and new volumes of previously recommended titles were not selected for inclusion in this list.

Members of this year's Reference Sources Committee were: Rebecca L. Johnson, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City; John Lawrence, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.; chair Dale F. Luchsinger, Athens (Ga.) Area Technical Institute; Shirley Maul, Vassar College Library, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Joyce A. McKnight, Akron-Summit County (Ohio) Public Library; Terri Propes, San Jacinto College Central Library, Pasadena, Tex.; Kip Roberson, Ilsey Public Library, Middlebury, Vt.; Anna Yount, Transylvania County Library, Brevard, N.C.; and Judith Zelter, Niles (Ill.) Public Library District.

The 1995 Outstanding Reference Sources exhibit will be on display at the RASD booth during the ALA Annual Conference in June in Chicago. After the conference the display will be available for loan to interested groups. For further information, contact Executive Director Cathleen Bourdon at the RASD office at the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 800-545-2433, ext. 4395.



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CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION

American Decades, 1950–1959, edited by Richard Layman. 521p. Detroit: Gale, 1994 (0-8103-5727-5); **1960–**

1968, 595p. (0-8103-3883-9), \$75 each.

A series of volumes covering the twentieth century by decades, *American Decades* is projected to complete publication in 1996. Fun to browse, each volume is divided into 13 sections covering topics such as the arts, government and politics, lifestyles and social trends, medicine and health, and sports. Each section opens with

a chronology and overview and closes with short biographies, deaths, and a bibliography of important books published in the decade. Sidebars highlight events and prominent individuals. An extensive index leads researchers to relevant entries in the body of the source.

The Astrology Encyclopedia, by James R. Lewis. 603p. Detroit: Gale, 1994 (0-8103-8900-2), \$45; Visible Ink, 1994 (0-8103-9460-X), pap. \$19.95.

It matters little whether you believe the stars and planets influence your life; *The Astrology Encyclopedia* makes interesting, informative reading. The 780 alphabetically arranged, scholarly entries detail not only the major concepts and contributors to the field, but also the historical development and continuing importance of astrology. Illustrations, a detailed index, bibliographies, and directories of astrological journals, organizations, and software enhance this volume's utility. With one in four Americans now believing in astrology, all signs say this stellar work should be a welcome addition on both public and academic library shelves.

Black Firsts: 2,000 Years of Extraordinary Achievement, by Jessie Carney Smith. 529p. Detroit: Gale, 1994 (0-

8103-8902-9), \$39.95; Visible Ink, 1994 (0-8103-9490-1), pap. \$16.95.

Who was the first black woman elected to a political office in the U.S.? Who was the first black player drafted by a professional basketball team? Who was the first black admitted to West Point? These are only a few of the almost 3,000 entries in 15 chapters that cover areas such as arts and entertainment, business, government, the military, civil rights, religion, and sports. A chronological chapter arrangement with many illustrations enhances the appeal of this browsable volume. Year and keyword indexes assist in locating information, and a foldout timeline places the reported firsts in historical context. This is a particularly useful source for locating Black History Month information.

The Cowboy Encyclopedia, by Richard Slatta. 474p. Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio, 1994 (0-87436-738-7), \$60.

What is a hat act? How did Gene Autry affect the development of the modern rodeo? What is a cattle ranch called in Latin America? The answers to these questions and many others may be found here. Focusing on the cowboy experience in North and South America, *The Cowboy Encyclopedia* provides history, definitions, and commentary in an A-to-Z arrangement with major topics such as saddles and cowboy films receiving longer topical entries. Excellent cross-references and an extensive index provide easy access to all aspects of a topic. Appendixes cover cowboy films and videotape sources, museums, periodicals, and western cultural happenings. An extensive bibliography lays a trail for interested readers seeking more information. The entries in this source are like potato chips—bet you can't read just one!

Encyclopedia of American Indian Costume, by Josephine Paterek. 516p. Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio, 1994 (0-87436-685-2), \$75.

This unique reference work is the result of melding a theatrical interest in costumes with 10 years of scholarly research. Paterek has beautifully executed the daunting task of describing the clothing used for everyday, war, rites, and ceremonies for men, women, and children in hundreds of tribes in diverse climates stretching over centuries. Well-organized text and over 400 drawings and authentic photos plus the cultural essays prefacing the 10 regional groupings and each tribe put the costumes in historical, social, and geographic context. Appendixes cover terminology and



Dartmouth Medal winner Running for President featured this reproduction of an oil painting of Lincoln as the "Rail-splitter." Chapter author William Gienapp explains that the presidential campaign of 1860, in which Lincoln ran against three candidates, was intent on portraying him as a figure with whom ordinary Americans could identify. Reproduced with the permission of Simon & Schuster Academic Reference and the Chicago Historical Society.

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The Oxford Companion to Wine pictures this lush view of gamay grapes arriving at the Fleurie cooperative—one of the most admired in France—in Beaujolais, an exceptional example of a one-grape wine region. Reprinted with the permission of Oxford University Press, New York.

the materials used in clothing. The excellent bibliographies in this classic work both document and encourage further reading.

Encyclopedia of Human Behavior, edited by V. S. Ramchandran. 4 vols., 2,754p. San Diego: Academic Press, 1994 (0-12-226920-9), \$595.

This title represents scholarship at its best. Its achievement is not so much its

comprehensive, scholarly coverage of the entire range of human action, but the simple clarity and facility with which each topic is presented. Each of the 250 entries includes an outline, glossary, bibliography, and a substantial article by an expert on the subject. These, plus the clear writing, excellent index, and extensive cross-references, tables, and figures contribute to the ease of using this set. Coverage includes both the physiological and psychological aspects

of human behavior. Articles range from taste, biofeedback, pain, and cranial nerves to war, surprise, friendship, and play. This exceptionally well-crafted resource will prove invaluable to both the specialist and the beginning student.

Encyclopedia of Traditional Epics, by Guida M. Jackson. 732p. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1994 (0-87436-724-7), \$65.

Increased attention to other cultures has stimulated the need for multicultural reference sources. Voyages, battles, tricksters, lovers, criminals, jealous rulers, and creation epics from around the world are included here. Once oral tribal tales, these stories, themes, and characters live on in contemporary opera, drama, dance, puppetry, film, and literature. They are increasingly cherished by their cultural owners. In this alphabetically arranged work, the less familiar Ho Hsien Ku, Mahabharata, and Kintu are brought together with the more familiar Arthur and Beowulf and a host of other heroic stories and figures from 3000 B.C. through the twentieth century. This is a handy reference work for all libraries.

The Encyclopedia of Vaudeville, by Anthony Slide. 605p. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1994 (0-313-28027-4), \$75.

What do Jack Benny, Ethel Barrymore, Sarah Bernhardt, and Cary Grant have in common? They all appeared at one time or another on the vaudeville stage. Vaudeville was an important part of American popular culture from the late 1800s through the early 1930s.

More than 500 entries to people, theaters, historical terms, and types of act are included in the book. Entries often include a sampling of an act's routines, contemporary criticism, and anecdotal commentary by the performers themselves or their contemporaries. This first reference guide to vaudeville is fun to read and will be popular in any reference collection.

Handbook of Hispanic Cultures in the

United States, edited by Nicolas Kanellos and Claudio Esteva-Fabregat. 4 vols., 1,490p. Houston: Arte Publico, 1994 (1-55885-103-8), \$200.

Hispanic Americans are the fastest-growing ethnic group in the U.S., but there are few reliable sources on their history and culture. A joint production of the Instituto de Cooperacion Iberoamericana in Madrid and Arte Publico Press, this set was created to fill that information void. Scholars on both sides of the Atlantic produced this coverage of Hispanic history, literature, art, sociology, and anthropology. Essays are grouped into classified sections such as the Spanish colonial model, the Hispanic oral tradition, and marriage and kinship. Each section concludes with an extended bibliography. This resource will be especially useful to bilingual librarians serving Spanish-speaking clients, but all users may benefit from this examination of the place of Hispanics in American life.

Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies, edited by Jacob Ernest Cooke. 3 vols., 2,397p. New York: Charles Scribner, 1993 (0-684-19269-1), \$320.

If your image of colonial America is primarily white, British, or even eighteenth-century, think again! The editors of *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies* convincingly redefine this dynamic period, which stretches from the 10th-century Norse settlements in Canada to the 1867 sale of Russia's American possessions to the United States. A comparative approach emphasizes the cultural debts to the British, French, Dutch, and Spanish, but the contributions of Africans and Native Americans to the North American heritage are amply demonstrated. The volumes are thematically organized, and the wide-ranging articles touch on all aspects of society, from old age and death to the environmental impact of the colonists and their activities.

Running for President: The Candidates and Their Images. Vol. 1: 1789-1896. Vol. 2: 1900-1992, edited by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. 968p. New York: Simon & Schuster Academic Reference; dist. by Macmillan, 1994 (0-13-303371-6) \$150.

Buttons, posters, and bumper stickers!



Vacationers in America's Kentucky Horse Park enjoy riding as a leisure activity over the park's trails, as shown in *The Encyclopedia of the Horse*. Courtesy of Dorling Kindersley.

These are the modern artifacts of presidential elections. However, hats, vases, snuff boxes, clocks, and even mechanical nose-thumpers have been used as presidential campaign paraphernalia over the decades since that first election in 1789. This source covers campaign images and the fun of presidential campaigns. For each election, a spirited essay written by an expert political historian and/or journalist details what tactics each candidate or political party employed to appeal to the electorate. Winners, losers, and third-party candidates are included here. Accompanying each essay are several pages of full-color photos of campaign memorabilia. These photos reflect the mood and issues of the times. They enhance the focus of the work to make history tangible and enjoyable for the reader.

tives advise herbal products or nutritional supplements they have discovered at the health food store. Where do you find information on these nontraditional therapies? *Alternative Medicine: The Definitive Guide* provides this information in clear, readable language and an attractive, concise format appropriate for the layperson. This source outlines 43 individual therapies as well as over 200 illnesses with alternative therapies used to treat them. Especially helpful is the information and referral listing for each therapy. With contributions from over 400 authorities in the field, this comprehensive reference is a fine source for information that is difficult to locate.

The Dorling Kindersley Encyclopedia of Fishing, edited by Ian Wood. 288p. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1994 (1-56458-492-5), \$39.95.

What kind of rod and reel work best to catch an arctic char? How do I tie a spider hitch knot? Should I use spoons, spinners, or live bait to attract a northern pike? All these questions and more may be answered in this book. All types of fishing (both freshwater and saltwater), baits, tackle, and techniques are covered here. There is also a lengthy section on species of sporting fish, detailing their geographic range and the types of tackle and baits that are most effective for catching them. The book

GENERAL

Alternative Medicine: The Definitive Guide, compiled by the Burton Goldberg Group. 1,068p. Puyallup, Washington: Future Medicine Publishing, Inc., 1993 (0-9636334-3-0), \$59.95.

Radio and television talk-show guests proclaim the curative power of some new or ancient therapy be it homeopathy, chelation, or hydrotherapy. Friends and rela-

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is lavishly illustrated with full-color drawings and photos. With more than 65 million people in the U.S. alone who like to fish, this book will have an enormous audience eager to get their hands on it.

The Encyclopedia of the Horse, by Elwyn Hartley Edwards. 400p. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1994 (1-56458-614-6), \$39.95.

Over 150 breeds of horses and ponies are featured in this work, including breeds such as Karabakh, Shales, Galiceno, and Vladimir to represent the best horses from all areas of the world. Arranged chronologically, chapters trace the horse from its evolution and early use to classical riding, its influence in different areas of the world, and the horse at work, in sports, and in war. Within each chapter are highlighted breeds associated with the period, geographic area, or activity. Beautiful in design, the book cleverly incorporates a great amount of information with a stunning two-page illustration of each breed. It's a visual treat for all equine lovers and will be a popular addition to reference collections.

The Oxford Companion to Wine, edited by Jancis Robinson. 1,104p. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994 (0-19-866159-2), \$49.95.

With the many buyers' guides and wine resources already in your collection, do you need another wine book? The answer is yes if the book is *The Oxford Companion to Wine*. This unique source is the most

complete book now available on wine. It will appeal to the novice as it answers basic questions about wine selection and appreciation. It will also engage the expert with its wealth of detail on every aspect of the world of wine. Editor Jancis Robinson has gathered contributions from authorities around the world to produce over 3,000 entries. They range from brief identifications to lengthy essays that thoroughly explain the agricultural, commercial, historical, and artistic aspects of wine. Many illustrations, including 32 full-color plates, accompany the text. With its fine illustrations and fascinating text, this book is a delight for browsing as well as reference use.

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Dictionary of Native American Literature, edited by Andrew Wiget. 598p. New York: Garland, 1994 (0-8153-1560-0), \$95.

Jane Johnston Schoolcraft—whose Ojibwa name, Obahbahmwawagezhegoqua, means "the Sound Which the Stars Make Rushing through the Sky"—was one of the first American Indian women to publish poetry. She is just one of the over 40 writers covered in this handsome handbook on Native American oral and written literature. The editors have wisely chosen to organize the work into three chronological sections. The first treats Native American oral tradition; the second, the emergence of Native American writing from its beginnings to 1967; and the third covers the Native American Renaissance, 1967 to the present. Bio-critical articles cover such renowned authors as Vine Deloria, Jr., Leslie Marmon Silko, Black Elk, and Louise Erdrich, as well as lesser-known early writers like D'Arcy McNickle and Mourning Dove. More than 20 fascinating essays on topics from "Autobiography" to "The Native American Trickster," round out this carefully crafted work.

Gay & Lesbian Literature, edited by Sharon Malinowski. 488p. Detroit: St. James, 1994 (1-55862-174-1), \$90.

This work brings together in one volume bio-bibliographic descriptions of more than 200 authors who have figured prominently in gay and lesbian literature since 1900. This

source is international in scope and includes novelists, poets, short story writers, dramatists, journalists, editors, and writers of nonfiction. Inclusion is based on the lesbian and/or gay thematic content of a work and not upon the author's sexual orientation. Each entry begins with a biography of the writer followed by bibliographies of writings both by and about the author, and concludes with a signed critical essay. The indexing is excellent, featuring names, nationality, gender, subject and genre, and awards indexes. The volume concludes with an extensive listing of additional authors of gay and lesbian literature and a selective list of important anthologies and critical studies. This is a valuable contribution to the growing field of gay and lesbian studies.

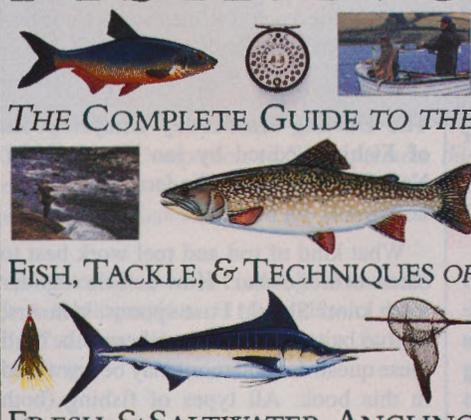
New York Public Library Writer's Guide to Style and Usage, edited by Andrea Sutcliffe. 838p. New York: HarperCollins, 1994 (0-06-270064-2), \$35.

From verb tense and spelling challenges to indexing and ink matching systems, this latest addition to the publisher's NYPL series nimbly guides writers "from rough draft to the printed page." All five sections are user-friendly: "Usage," "Grammar," "Style," "Preparing the Text," and "Production and Printing." Straightforward editorial guidance is provided not only for text but also for tables, charts, graphs, and maps. Such chapters as "Foreign Languages," "Copyright," "Bias-free Usage," and "Signs and Symbols" guarantee the popularity of this source at the reference desk. Numerous illustrative sidebars are valuable as well as delightful. Don't miss FDR in the active voice and Delia Ephron in the imperative mood!

Random House American Sign Language Dictionary, by Elaine Costello. 1,067p. New York: Random House, 1994 (0-394-58580-1), \$50.

For over 300,000 people, American Sign Language (ASL) is the primary language. This new dictionary defines and depicts over 5,600 signs clearly and with fine illustrations of signers which feature the entire upper body. (Incidentally, both the models and the artists are deaf.) The dictionary reflects ASL as it is used today, including slang and recent technological terms, as well as bias-free words and phrases. The excellent introduction traces the history of ASL and discusses its phonology and morphology in detail. Director and editor-in-chief at Gallaudet University Press, author Costello brings more than 25 years' experience to this project. Her dictionary is a rich and vital source for all ASL users.

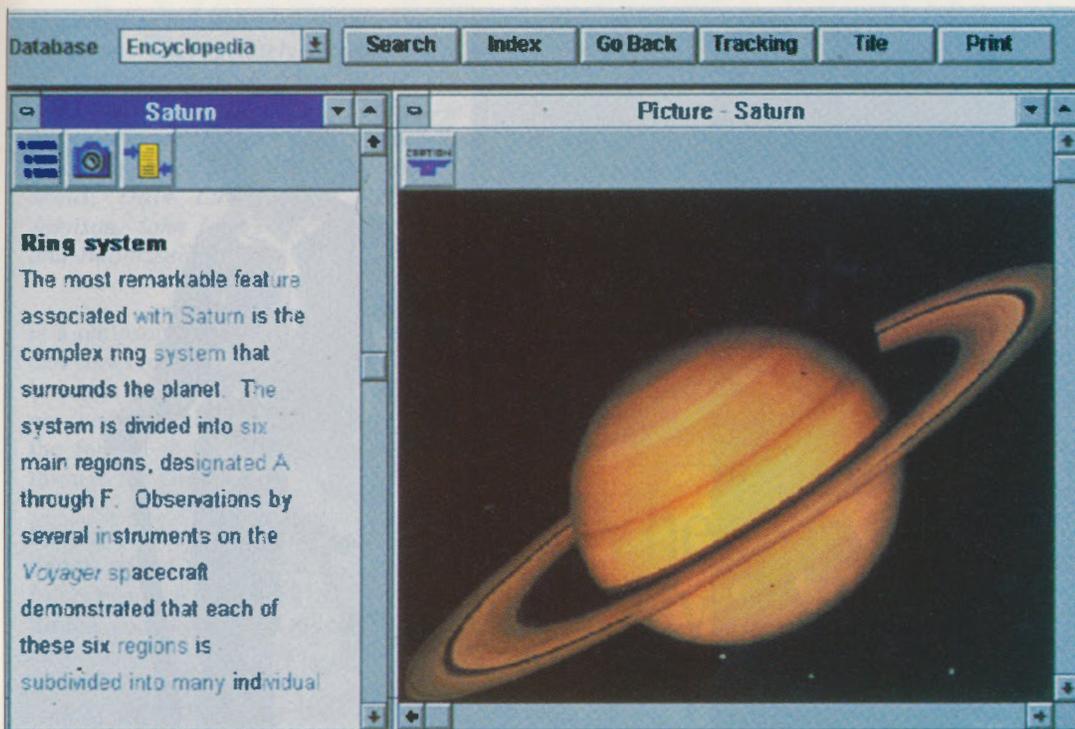
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FISHING



THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE
FISH, TACKLE, & TECHNIQUES OF
FRESH & SALTWATER ANGLING

All types of fish, baits, tackle, and techniques have a place and are lavishly illustrated in *The Dorling Kindersley Encyclopedia of Fishing*. At the heart of the book is a directory of over 200 species.

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Saturn's rings are featured in this frame from the McGraw-Hill Multimedia Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, where 20 volumes spring to life from one compact disc. Reprinted with permission of McGraw-Hill.

sent an eclectic group of items in daily use. The entry for each product includes developmental history, raw materials, design, manufacturing process, quality control, and future prospects. The entry concludes with a list of books, pamphlets, and periodicals for further reading. Acknowledgments credit the individual, company, or association contributing information about a particular product, thus providing another source for investigation. This volume is the first in a series to be published at two-year intervals.

McGraw-Hill Multimedia Encyclopedia of Science and Technology. CD-ROM. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994. IBM single-user version (0-07-

Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang, Volume 1 (A-G), edited by J. E. Lighter. 1,006p. New York: Random House, 1994 (0-394-54427-7), \$55.

It's boffo! A number 1, dead-on, first-chop, and cool as a moose! The *Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang* is destined to become a reference classic. In fact, it has already been acronymed (HDAS). We'll have to wait until 1996 for Volume 2 (H-R), and Volume 3 (S-Z) will be published in 1997. But that will give folks plenty of time to pore over those 12 pages devoted to the F word, subject of much media attention. This lexicographical marvel is clearly a labor of love for compiler J.E. Lighter, who has collected slang since he was a teenager. The result of his decades of toil is a work that manages to be as rambunctious as it is magnificent.

LAW

Great American Trials, edited by Edward Knappman. 872p. Detroit: Gale, 1994 (0-8103-8875-8), \$50; Visible Ink, 1994 (0-8103-9134-1), pap. \$17.95.

Do you need information on the Salem witches or Rodney King? This source is a fine starting point to check data or to

move on to further research. A blend of information and entertainment mark this book. Chronologically arranged, each trial's data box identifies its salient features: name, place, date, principals, defendant, lawyers, judge, verdict, and sentence. A narrative recap of each trial reviews the circumstances, the legal strategy used, the rulings, the verdict, the trial's legal significance and impact, and subsequent events. Alternative access is offered via three tables of contents arranged by chronology, alphabet, and category, plus a good index. A glossary and lists for further reading round out this work.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

How Products Are Made: An Illustrated Guide to Product Manufacturing, Volume 1, edited by Neil Schlager. 524p. Detroit: Gale, 1994 (0-8103-8907-X), \$75.

When and how were air bags developed? What materials are used in a floppy disk? How do barcode scanners work? When did zippers replace buttons in blue jeans? The answers to these questions and many more are found in this source. More than 100 products are featured and repre-

046759-5), \$1,300, plus annual updates, \$325; IBM network version (2-8 workstations) (0-07-852714-7), \$1,600, plus annual updates, \$425; IBM network version (9-20 workstations) (0-07-852715-5), \$2,100, plus annual updates, \$425.

Just point and click and the complete 20 volumes of the *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* and the *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms* spring to life from a single compact disc. With a user-friendly interface and high-powered search capabilities, keyword, Boolean, or context-relevant searching is available to access information. Color pictures, animation, audio presentations, maps, charts, or tables often accompany the text. Users may view a lunar eclipse, watch activated DNA, and even hear sound as it travels through the human ear. Navigating between databases, articles, and graphics is easy and seamless with hypertext linking. Students, researchers, and lay users will find this product to be an ideal starting point to the discovery of the world of science. And McGraw-Hill plans to release a new version of this fine source annually.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Encyclopedia, edited by William P. Cunningham. 981p. Detroit: Gale, 1994 (0-8103-8856-1), \$200.



An Arapaho Man in 1875 wears leggings with beaded bands. From ABC-Clio's Encyclopedia of American Indian Costume. Reprinted with permission of the National Anthropological Archives.



Famed African-American cowboy Nat Love (b. 1854), whose photo appears in The Cowboy Encyclopedia, claimed to be the original Deadwood Dick. Courtesy of ABC-Clio.

When NIMBY, greenhouse effect, or green politics come up, this will be a useful work to have within arm's reach. Almost every environmental topic is covered in this attractive encyclopedia's over 1,200 articles. Articles on disasters, organizations, terms, legislation, environmentalists, public policy, processes, animals, and recycling will serve the student, policy maker, voter, educator, and activist. Well-chosen black- and-white photos enhance adjacent essays that clarify issues and environmental problems. Addresses and up-to-date bibliographies encourage additional research. Thoughtful indexing and good cross references provide easy access to information throughout the work.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Encyclopedia of Consumer Brands: An Illustrated Guide to Product Manufacturing, edited by Janice Jorgensen. 3 vols., 2,000 p. Detroit: St. James Press, 1994 (1-55862-335-3), \$200.

Interested in raising your Trivial Pursuit score? The Energizer Bunny was born in what year? Can you name the RCA canine or his puppy partner? How many configurations are possible with three eight-studded Lego bricks? HOG (that's Harley Owners Group) cranking up their Davidsons will find these answers and many more! It's all in a name, or so they say. In this source, 600 brand-name products for consumer, personal, and durable goods are covered for the user. Each article of approximately 2,500 words gives company history, market performance, and advertising information.

Encyclopedia of the American Legislative System: Studies of the Principal Structures, Processes, and Policies of Congress and the State Legislatures since the Colonial Era, edited by Joel H. Sibley. 3 vols., 1,738 p. New York: Charles Scribner, 1994 (0-684-19243-8), \$320.

The founding fathers asked themselves what kinds of people should serve as representatives. Their response—the wisest and the best! How quickly this was tested. In the 1780s, citizen distrust

sought to impose constitutional mandates on those officials they deemed wayward and self-serving. The political party system, firmly established in some states before the Constitutional Convention of 1789, augured what the electorate view today: a partisan rupture at the national level. Sibley has edited a fine source that traces the workings of legislatures (federal, state, and local) in the course of the nation's history. Informative essays by 91 historians and political scientists offer the reader a special purview on how things change while remaining essentially the same.

Encyclopedia of the American Military: Studies of the History, Traditions, Policies, Institutions, and Roles of the Armed Forces in War and Peace, edited by John E. Jessup and Louise B. Ketz. 3 vols., 2,255p. New York: Charles Scribner, 1994 (0-684-19255-1), \$320.

Tradition? Both dissident and hawk serve as elders of U.S. military history. Insurrection and death visited Colonialist and Loyalist during Revolutionary times. Advocates in the War of 1812 saw the opportunities of annexation as reason to support war efforts. This substantial work

Gathered in the Warwick Hotel's Variety Room—appropriately named, in view of the wide-ranging selections of the 1995 Outstanding Reference Sources—are (clockwise from left) Terri Propes, Kip Roberson, Joyce McKnight, Shirley Maul, Dale Luchsinger, Rebecca Johnson, John Lawrence, Anna Yount, and Judith Zelter.



is a philosophical discussion of American views on war, peace, cowardice, and bravery. It's a study of the military psyche, illustrating the clarion call and the funeral dirge from Colonial times through the Gulf War.

Encyclopedia of the American Presidency, edited by Leonard W. Levy and Louis Fisher. 4 vols., 1,827p. New York: Simon and Schuster Academic Reference; dist. by Macmillan, 1994 (0-13-275983-7), \$355.

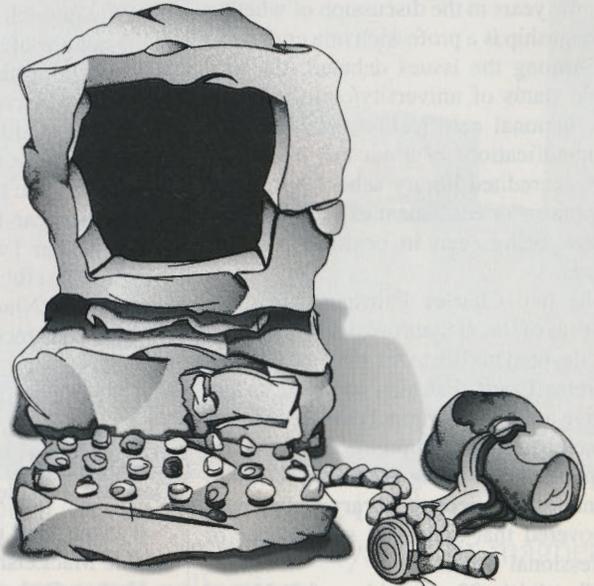
A 21-gun salute, four drum rolls, and "Hail to the Chief" often greet a U.S. President. Quite regal for someone who hasn't had a raise since 1969. VPs may not hear drum rolls, but their pay has increased from \$62,500 in 1969 to \$171,500 in 1993. Possibly the presidential yacht sufficed. Woe to those who follow Jimmy Carter. He sold it in 1979 for \$286,000 as a cost-saving measure. Such tidbits, along with lengthier articles on all aspects of the presidency, are bound together in this fascinating four-volume work! Wonderful for both research and stumpers!

BIOGRAPHY

The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues, by James A. Riley. 926p. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1994 (0-7867-0065-3), \$49.95.

The professional Negro baseball leagues flourished between the late 1880s and 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier and became a Brooklyn Dodger. The history of these teams and players was neglected for years. *The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues* is the first serious reference book about this subject. Relying heavily on primary sources, such as interviews with living players, this reference work contains entries on some 4,000 players who played on teams between the years 1872 to 1950. This work belongs in every sports reference collection. □

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