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Book Review of 'Encyclopedia of the Clinton Presidency,' by Peter B. Levy

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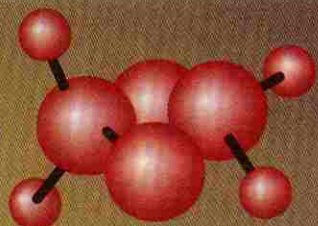


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er range of scientific disciplines and a broader audience, so its articles are generally shorter and less detailed. With an intended audience of scientists and engineers and an emphasis on the physical sciences and technology, this encyclopedia aims to provide in-depth, authoritative coverage without limiting the mathematical treatment to algebra. This is an excellent source for students and researchers needing an overview of a particular subject. Highly recommended for academic and other types of libraries with significant science/technology collections.—*Teresa Berry, Univ. of Tennessee Libs., Knoxville*

The History Highway 3.0:

A Guide to Internet Resources. 3d ed.

M.E. Sharpe. 2002. c.672p. permanent paper. ed. by Dennis A. Trinkle & Scott A. Merriman. maps. index. LC 2001049817. ISBN 0-7656-0903-7. \$89.95; **pap.** ISBN 0-7656-0904-5. \$39.95 with CD-ROM.

REF

Initially published in 1996 and revised in 2000, this work has again been updated, which is essential to keeping it useful and relevant. The editors attempt to survey the breadth and depth of history as a subject within the far-reaching and often confusing realm of the Internet—an aim they achieve admirably. Many categories of history are covered, including specific geographies and time periods, the history of computers, genealogy, and urban history. There are also useful sections on newsgroups, discussion lists, libraries, and special collections. The entries themselves provide a description of what information a reader can find on the site and some sense of the authority of the site or its authors. The great thing about a work like this is that you know a site included here can be worthwhile. The inclusion of an index is important because some of the topics overlap. For instance, one web site is covered in two separate sections, by two different contributors, and therefore with slightly different levels of detail. The serious scholar, the history buff, and anyone with a computer and a love of the subject should have this book—along with a heavy-duty book weight to hold it open while surfing.—*Manya S. Chylinski, Ernst & Young Ctr. for Business Knowledge, Boston*

Jasen, David A. **A Century of American Popular Music: 2000 Best-Loved and Remembered Songs (1899–1999).**

Routledge. May 2002. c.317p. index. ISBN 0-415-93700-0. \$100.

REF

The editor of numerous ragtime collections, Jasen (communications, Long Island Univ., C.W. Post) draws on his authoritative background to create this useful and entertaining reference work featuring “most popular, best remembered, historically important, and interesting or unusual” songs. He broadly defines popular songs to in-

clude parlor songs, jazz instrumentals, big band standards, movie music, easy listening, blues, rock, country, and rap to arrive at about 2000 titles; browsing through the contents encourages nostalgic reflection and humming. The main body of the work is an alphabetical listing by song title indicating composer, lyricist, publisher, copyright date, source (if from a show or film), who first sang or played it, later popularizers (if any), and recording chart positions with label name/number. Contributions by non-Americans, such as the Beatles, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Franz Lehar, are also present. Undoubtedly, some readers will miss their favorites and question why some others made the cut. For example, there is nothing by Leonard Bernstein or from *A Chorus Line* or *Les Misérables*, but almost every song from *Guys and Dolls* is included. Jasen routinely provides enlightening comments to accompany the listing, an effort that is at times hindered by grammatical errors, misspellings, and personal biases with annoying exclamation points. Indexes by composer (but not lyricist), publisher, and year and a listing of Academy Award-winning songs round out the volume. Jasen acknowledges relying on Donald Stubblebine’s *Cinema Sheet Music* and Billboard charts as compiled by Joel Whitburn. Libraries owning these titles and Nat Shapiro’s “Popular Music” series can probably skip this secondary source; for others, it is recommended as an affordable, one-stop reference.—*Barry Zaslow, Miami Univ. Libs., Oxford, OH*

Levy, Peter B. **Encyclopedia of the Clinton Presidency.**

Greenwood. 2002. 402p. permanent paper. photogs. index. LC 2001033683. ISBN 0-313-31294-X. \$65.

REF

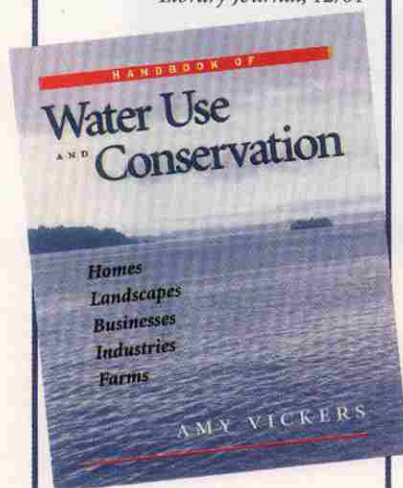
Clinton seemed to bring out both the best and the worst in himself and others, and his presidency will remain fiercely contested political terrain. Here, Levy (history and political science, York Coll. of Pennsylvania) does an admirable job of presenting a thorough, comprehensive, “encyclopedic” examination of the people, politics, policies, controversies, and scandals of the Clinton years. With over 230 short entries, this work is balanced and fair in its treatment of Clinton and the president’s critics (no easy task). A useful, if short, chronology of Clinton’s two tumultuous terms is presented at the back of the book. Here, the parts do not

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quite give form to the whole, and readers will have to look elsewhere to find the true meaning of the Clinton presidency. But as a reference work, this book is a unique and valuable guide to the presidency of William Jefferson Clinton. Recommended for public libraries.—*Michael Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Lorimer, Lawrence. **The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Baseball Desk Reference.**

DK. 2002. 608p. photogs. index. LC 2001047624. ISBN 0-7894-8392-0. \$50.

REF

Produced by sports editor Lorimer and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, this richly illustrated volume contains a treasure trove of useful information. The first section presents a brief analysis of "the American Pastime," with a time line, a history of baseball's Valhalla, and a look at baseball mechanics. Section 2 offers short biographical sketches of baseball businessmen; short, year-by-year accounts of the game's history; and an exploration of baseball franchises. This portion of the book also includes brief profiles, containing both texts and statistics of more than 700 of baseball's greatest performers and managers. Ty Cobb, for example, is shown to have led the league in key batting areas more frequently than any other major leaguer, while Walter Johnson, Warren Spahn, and Lefty Grove were the top moundsmen, as indicated by their collection of individual pitching titles. Photographic images of Hall of Fame plaques, complete with the actual inscriptions, are placed next to the biographical sketches. The sometimes ignored on-base percentage statistic is featured, while lists of the top lifetime and single-season earned run averages are intelligently divided into the dead ball and live ball eras. Section 3 examines the international, college, and youth components of the game, along with women and baseball, the Negro leagues, and the minors. The final section, "Lore and Lingo," is particularly intriguing; it explores the media, "Baseball Song and Verse," museums and libraries, baseball dialect, baseball movies, literature about the sport, and collectibles. This book offers a vast array of information not included in other baseball collections. Recommended for all public libraries.—*R.C. Cottrell, California State Univ., Chico*

Manser, Martin H.

The Facts On File Dictionary of Foreign Words and Phrases.

Facts On File. 2002. 432p. permanent paper. index. LC 2001042302. ISBN 0-8160-4458-9. \$45.

REF

This dictionary is based on a great concept—to explain foreign words and phrases that have found their way into our language—but, with only about 4000 entries,

it more often frustrates. The vast majority of the words listed here come from French and Latin (not surprisingly, since 40 percent of English is derived from French, often through Latin). And though some 60 languages are represented, it is often with only a handful of words. Do we really have only one or two words from Aramaic, Basque, Czech, Egyptian, Finnish, and Polish and only 15 from all the Scandinavian languages? Why include "blond," "bra," "bulletin," "cot," "dessert," "dollar," "minor," "restaurant," and "sofa" as foreign words when there are thousands of others that would be more useful to define? Can we really accept that "margarine" and "menu" are foreign words when their meanings in the original language are entirely different? That said, Manser (*The Hearthside Bible Dictionary*) has included many music and food terms that could be useful, especially for readers who stick to French, Italian, Spanish, and Hindi. In addition, the Latin terms (many from jurisprudence) are particularly helpful. Each entry includes information on the original meaning and spelling of the word or phrase and an example of its use in English. Recommended for larger public libraries, at least until a more satisfying edition is published.—*Kitty Chen Dean, Nassau Coll., Garden City, NY*

The New York Times Guide to the Arts of the 20th Century. 4 vols.

Fitzroy Dearborn. 2002. 3339p. illus. index. ISBN 1-57958-290-7. \$395.

REF

This four-volume guide to the arts reprints 2500 articles from the *New York Times*, covering art and architecture, literature, music, dance, theater, film, and television. Many are reprinted reviews (particularly in the literature sections), but other articles are opinion pieces, essays, and reporting that show the attitude at a particular time toward a topic or event. The set closely resembles the "20th Century in Review" series (also published by Fitzroy Dearborn), but nothing on the title page indicates that it is part of that series. The text is arranged chronologically by decade and then by the broad topics listed above; each decade opens with an introductory essay about the arts during that time. There is a general index to the set at the end of the fourth volume, followed by a byline index. Unfortunately, finding articles by theme is a dicey proposition; one is completely dependent on the index to bring these news articles together. For example, there is an entry in the index for "Women in the Arts," but none of the entries listed (only eight in total) leads the reader to a reprinted article about the Guerrilla Girls. In addition, since this resource was not conceived as an encyclopedia, there are no cross references in either the index or the text. This guide provides a fascinating glimpse of how the *New York Times* covered the arts in the previous century and is wonderful to browse,