

7-1-2005

# Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World (Review)

Sue Polanka

Wright State University - Main Campus, sue.polanka@wright.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/ul\\_pub](https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/ul_pub)



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

## Repository Citation

Polanka, S. (2005). Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World (Review). *Booklist*, 101 (21), 1942.  
[https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/ul\\_pub/10](https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/ul_pub/10)

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Libraries' Staff Publications by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact [corescholar@www.libraries.wright.edu](mailto:corescholar@www.libraries.wright.edu), [library-corescholar@wright.edu](mailto:library-corescholar@wright.edu).

## NEW KID

In this year of anniversaries (*Booklist's* 100th, *RBB's* 75th), our new Youth Reference section is now six months old. Youth Reference is the place to find reviews of sources specifically targeted to students through the high-school level, one area of reference publishing that has grown more vibrant over the past few years. Beginning with this issue, Youth Reference is also the place for reviews of essential collection development and readers' advisory tools designed for librarians who work with this age group—for example, *Popular Series Fiction for Middle School and Teen Readers*, which we review on p.1944.

*Popular Series Fiction for Middle School and Teen Readers* and its companion, *Popular Series Fiction for K-6 Readers* (2004), are both part of Library Unlimited's Children's and Young Adult Literature Reference Series, edited by Catherine Barr. Other titles in the series include *Best Books for High School Readers* and *Best Books for Middle and Junior High Readers*, both published in 2004. In each of these volumes, more than 12,000 recent titles—published 2001–2003 for the high-school volume and late 1999–2003 for the middle- and junior-high-school volume—are grouped under broad categories (“Literary Forms”; “Biography, Memoirs, Etc.”; “History and Geography”) and subcategories (“Folklore and Fairy Tales,” “Sports Figures,” “Geographical Regions”). Each entry holds bibliographic information, a brief annotation, and citations to reviews in journals such as *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, and *VOYA* (*Voice of Youth Advocates*). A related title is *Best Books for Children: Preschool through Grade 6*—the eighth edition will be available in December of this year. The seventh edition of another standard resource, *A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children's Picture Books*, is slated for publication in September.

## COMING UP

Be sure to check out our annual Fall Reference Preview in the August issue. Also for August, we're working on reviews of Facts On File's *Encyclopedia of Death and Dying*; a four-volume *Encyclopedia of World Trade*, from Sharpe Reference; and *The Fifties in America*, from Salem Press.

by MARY ELLEN QUINN (mquinn@ala.org)

**Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World.** 3d. ed. Ed. by Helene Henderson. 2005. 906p. indexes. Omnigraphics, \$110 (0-7808-0422-8). 394.26.

Whether one is interested in the Iditarod or Ramadan, *Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World* is the premier source of information. The third edition contains nearly 2,500 observances from the U.S. and more than 100 other nations. New content includes more than 400 brand-new entries, among them independence and national days around the world; religious holidays from the Muslim, Sikh, Jain, and Zoroastrian denominations; Native American celebrations; an expanded section on calendar systems; and a perpetual calendar.

The dictionary is arranged alphabetically by the name of the celebration and ranges from *Aban Parab*, at entry number 0001, to the *Zydeco Music Festival*, at number 2496. Entries include the name of the celebration, time period, a brief description, contact information, and sources consulted.

Changes from the previous edition include the removal of the introductory “Millennium” chapter and the “Web Sites on Holidays” appendix. The remaining appendixes have been updated. The index section also received an overhaul. There are now three indexes—chronological, special subject, and general. The chronological index has two parts, “Fixed Days and Events Index” and “Moveable Days Index,” which lists entries observed according to the non-Gregorian calendar. The “Special Subject Index” is arranged in six categories—“Ancient/

Pagan,” “Calendar,” “Folkloric,” “Historic,” “Sporting,” and “Promotional.” Finally, the general index combines four indexes from the previous edition and is arranged alphabetically by keyword and includes proper names.

Extensive introductory pages describe the scope and audience of the book, with detailed instructions for its use. This compilation continues to be recommended for all libraries. —*Sue Polanka*

### Local and Regional Government

**Information: How to Find It, How to Use It.** Ed. by Mary Martin. 2005. 239p. index. Greenwood, \$65 (1-57356-412-5). 015.73.

This well-designed research guide will be a welcome addition to the reference collections of librarians, students, and citizen researchers. Editor Martin manages to pack a ton of information into a compact and readable text. Clear chapter and section divisions and a commonsense writing style make it a pleasure to use.

The first 2 of 19 chapters provide context for the chapters that follow. Chapter 1, “Access to Local Government Information,” introduces access barriers, freedom of information, privacy laws, and alternate sources of information. Chapter 2, “Forms of Local Government Structure,” explains municipal, county, and regional governments. Subsequent chapters cover the use of archives, general indexes, and administrative sources and explain in detail how to find local information about health, crime, transportation, education, small business, and much more.

## NEWS and VIEWS

Chapter 11, “Finding Information on Crime and Criminals,” is typical as to arrangement, layout, and design. Directly under the chapter title is a handy list of major topics and major resources covered in the chapter. Following this list is a concise introduction to the subject of crime and individual sections on each of the topics and resources listed at the beginning of the chapter. Throughout the volume, all sources are clearly cited and easily identifiable within the text.

A reference guide that is both informative and pleasurable to read is a rare bird, especially when the subject is on the dry side. Researchers using *Local and Regional Government Information* will be happy to find that it is one of those rare birds. It is also a steal at \$65. Highly recommended for any library serving folks who seek government information at the local and regional level. —*Art Lichtenstein*

**Working Americans, 1880–2005: Volume 6: Women at Work.** By Scott Derks. 2005. 483p. illus. index. Grey House, \$145 (1-59237-063-2). 305.5.

The sixth title in the *Working Americans 1880–2005* series continues the publisher's innovative approach to employment history. This volume surveys the milieu of 33 individuals in 19 states and 5 other locales, including Panama and occupied Japan. Jobs range from farmer and student to midwife, photographer, and judge. Included among the profiles of full-time workers are World War I volunteer Livia Sedgwick and Ellen Watson, an activist protesting the Vietnam War. The text presents an array of social, ethical, and economic variables. Illustrations from catalogs and advertisements, media squibs, cartoons, and posters add life and humanity.

The writing style is unremarkable and handicapped by broad generalizations lacking documentation. The book needed a firmer editorial hand, especially to supervise illustration selection and layout and to maintain focus on working women in sidebars. Of particular annoyance are either paltry captions—“Joanne Binzen loves being creative,” “The beauty of New Mexico is a constant delight,” “Many community events are available for people of Aiken”—or no information to identify or explain inclusion of illustrations.

Additional titles in the *Working Americans, 1880–2005* series include *The Working Class* (2000), *The Middle Class* (2000), *The Upper Class* (2001), *Their Children* (2002), and *At War* (2003). *Women at Work* is recommended for libraries where these other titles are part of the collection. —*Mary Ellen Snodgrass*

## Youth Reference

**Cyclopedia of Young Adult Authors.** 3v. 2005. 770p. illus. indexes. Salem, \$225 (1-58765-206-4). 810.9.

Salem Press has published an alphabetically arranged set containing 251 author profiles for young adult readers. Though emphasis is on