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The Kennel Club's Illustrated Breed Standards: The Official Guide to Registered Breeds (Review)

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history of NASA; guides to NASA's regional technology transfer centers, field centers and facilities, and commercial development centers; lesson plans for grades 9 to 12; an annotated listing of Web sites; and a glossary. The lesson plans are selected from the NASAexplores Web site, and each references the appropriate National Education Standards for science, math, technology, and geography, which are printed following the plans.

This book is recommended for the school and public libraries as well as a professional teacher's library. It will provide ideas for science projects for students and educators and fascinating reading for all patrons interested in learning about products and ideas generated by the space program.

The Kennel Club's Illustrated Breed Standards: The Official Guide to Registered Breeds. Rev. ed. 2003. 416p. glossary. illus. index. Erbury; dist. by Trafalgar, \$60 (0-09-189028-4). 636.71.

The Kennel Club was founded in London in 1873. Since then, it has set the specifications for dog breeds around the world. The primary purpose of this volume is to describe Kennel Club Breed Standards for 192 pedigree dogs.

The book is organized by groups of dogs—hound, gundog, terrier, utility, working, pastoral, and toy. Each entry contains a history of the breed, a color photo or illustration, and specifications for eyes, mouth, feet, coat, tail, size, color, faults, temperament, and more. The specifications are used as the basis for judging dogs and provide the latest standards for each breed. An index of breeds, a canine glossary, and a guide to Kennel Club services are also included.

New to this edition are the updated standards for each breed, a general explanation of the breed standards, and the new pastoral group of dogs. The pastoral group was derived from the working group in 1999. Seven new breeds have full entries, and six additional breeds are represented with a photograph.

Libraries that own *The New Encyclopedia of the Dog* (DK, 2000), *The Complete Encyclopedia of Pedigree Dogs* (Southwater, 2000), or *Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds* (Barron's, 1998) may want to add this book for a more technical look at canines. The specifications are also available on the Kennel Club's Web site [<http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk>], so for libraries short on budget, the Web site will suffice. However, the reasonable price of this compact, beautifully illustrated guide may justify purchase for some public libraries. Dog lovers will appreciate circulating copies.

The Oxford Dictionary of the Renaissance. By Gordon Campbell. 2003. 862p. appendixes. bibliogs. illus. Oxford, \$150 (0-19-860175-1). 940.2.

Most of the 4,000 entries in this volume were written by Campbell, professor of Renaissance literature at the University of Leicester, with assistance from an advisory board of university professors in the U.S. and England. The *Dictionary* covers 1415 (the Battle of Agincourt) to 1618 (the beginning of the Thirty Years' War), with flexibility to include some earlier and later topics.

Geographical scope includes "countries whose cultures were touched in significant measure by the revival of classical learning," especially those underrepresented in English-language sources. More than half of the entries are biographical. Other topics include law, theology, and science as well as art, literature, and music. Many involve Italy, but France and Spain are also well represented, and there is content related to Portugal, Denmark, and Germany. Some longer entries are international in scope. For example, *Artillery* encompasses Turkey, England, Italy, France, Spain, and Scotland. Most entries are one or two paragraphs in length, but broader topics (e.g., *Medici villas*, *Wars of religion*) are one to two pages long. Entries frequently end with two or three bibliographic references, including abbreviations for the 37 historical and biographical sources listed at the beginning of the volume. The text is supported by 100 black-and-white illustrations, a thematic index, and several appendixes, including a table of ruling houses.

The *Encyclopedia of the Renaissance* (Scribner, 1999) contains 1,200 articles ranging from one-half to nearly 50 pages in length. The *Oxford Dictionary* has significantly more (if generally much shorter) entries; in our sample of 86 entries, 30 were not found in the *Ency-*

lopedia of the Renaissance index. Among those unique to Oxford are the artistic terms *Arabesque* and *Grisaille* and the doctrine of *Ubiquitarianism*. Oxford is especially strong in *Gardens*, with entries for eight specific regions (e.g., *Bohemian and Moravian gardens*, *Scottish gardens*).

The *Oxford Dictionary of the Renaissance* is recommended for public and academic libraries, especially those not owning the larger Scribner set or desiring strong coverage of the Renaissance.

Scholastic Book of Outstanding Americans: Profiles of More Than 450 Famous and Infamous Figures in U.S. History. By Sheila Keenan. 2003. 256p. bibliog. glossary. illus. index. Scholastic, \$19.95 (0-439-28358-2). 920.073.

It may say something about American society that the first and last entries in this upper-elementary- and middle-school-level reference book are for two highly respected sports figures, Hank Aaron and Babe Didrikson Zaharias. In general, though, the profiles are an eclectic assortment, a mix of historical and contemporary people who made their names in a field or profession. Some individuals, such as George Washington, Martin Luther King Jr., or Toni Morrison, are given full-page entries. Most share a page with another person. People who are generally associated together, such as Abbot and Costello, Lewis and Clark, the Marx Brothers, or Rodgers and Hammerstein, are profiled as a team. There is good balance between the historical and contemporary entries. There is also a good mix of cultural backgrounds and professions. Despite the word *infamous* in the subtitle, most entries are for Americans who made positive contributions to society.

The entries, arranged in alphabetical order, are short capsules that provide quick identification. Most begin with a picture or photograph, often in color, and dates. Cross-references are made within the article by placing names in bold type. A glossary, a bibliography of books and Web sites, and an index serve as reference aids.

In a book of this kind, there are always quibbles about who has been included and who has been left out, but overall the choices represent the best in their fields. Although no entry is detailed enough for reports, this book is a good starting point. The price is affordable for all libraries serving the targeted audience.

Student Almanac of African American History. 2v. 2003. bibliog. illus. index. maps. Greenwood, \$80 (0-313-32596-0). 973.

Student Almanac of Native American History. 2v. 2003. bibliog. glossary. illus. index. maps. Greenwood, \$80 (0-313-32599-5). 970.

These attractive almanacs use essentially the same format to provide information on topics of interest to users in middle school and up. Each volume contains about four chapters that are arranged in chronological sequence and take the user from the earliest to the present time. Each chapter provides a survey of the topic; for example, "Unwilling Immigrants: Slavery in Colonial America, 1492-1763" informs the user about the nature of slavery, how it came to the Americas, and how it changed as it was codified under law until the American Revolution. These surveys are brief, covering a great deal of information in a simplified manner. They are accompanied by alphabetically arranged entries that provide slightly more detail on specific people, events, and terms. Throughout the volumes are sidebars jammed with lengthy quotes from primary source materials like diaries, poetry, period magazines, and newspapers. Charts and maps (without scale or a compass rose) and small black-and-white photographs add interest and provide additional information. There is also a time line that helps orient users.

Each volume has a glossary; a short bibliography of books on general topics; a list of media, CD-ROMs, and Web sites; and a short list of books on more specific topics like history, folklore, and fiction. Each volume reprints the entire index so users can refer to information contained in both volumes of the set. Unfortunately, the index does not list photographs or sidebar material. The overall arrangement of these almanacs makes them slightly more difficult to use for quick sound bites of information than UXL's *African American Almanac* and *Native North American Almanac* (both 1994), but they will be a welcome addition to school and public libraries where there is a need for additional information about African and Native Americans.