The Dog Breed Bible (Review)

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American Wars series is the *Civil War Almanac*, by Fredriksen, author of *Revolutionary War Almanac* (2006). The first section is a minutely detailed day-by-day chronology that covers nearly 600 pages and includes all the events pertinent to the war. Fredriksen starts the chronology on February 1, 1860, when Democrat William F. Pennington is elected after 44 ballots, noting, “This contest highlights growing factionalism within the Democratic Party.” The chronology concludes in December 1865.

Events for each day are grouped under such topics as “Diplomacy,” “Politics,” “North,” “South,” “Southwest,” and “West,” with the geographic groupings primarily referring to military movements or engagements. Following the chronology are more than 100 biographies of important military and political leaders, focusing on their contributions during the Civil War. The biographies are brief, most less than two pages, and many include black-and-white photos of the subject. A short appendix contains a selection of statistics. A final section of maps is an excellent addition and one of the strengths of this volume. A wide variety of maps, all in black and white, range from large-scale maps showing the entire Confederacy to detailed maps of all the key military engagements. The maps detailing the troop movements are particularly well done, detailed, clear, and easy to read. The volume concludes with an extensive bibliographic and a thorough index.

The information in this volume is both accessible and of high quality, making it an outstanding resource for any history researcher or Civil War buff. Highly recommended for academic and public library collections as a complement to resources such as *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2000).—Jessica Mayer

**The Dog Breed Bible.**

By D. Caroline Coile.


Lhasa apsos, terriers, and beagles, oh my! More than 160 American Kennel Club–recognized breeds in the areas of sporting, hound, working, terrier, toy, nonsporing, herding, and “miscellaneous”—those not yet placed in an AKC group—are beautifully described here in a condensed version of Barron’s *Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds* (2d ed., 2005). Although the same breeds are included, this version leaves out some introductory and back-matter material and the sidebars, which provide a detailed black-and-white breed illustration.

Full-page entries contain the breed name; brief descriptions of history, temperament, upkeep, and health concerns; a captioned color photo of the full body and close up of snout area; and highlighted data on the origin, function, coat, color, and height and weight of the breed. For example, the captioned color photo for the Finnish Spitz breed includes descriptions of its almond-shaped eyes; foxlike head and expression; small, high-set erect ears; plumed tail; and round feet. A sidebar rates eight personality and grooming traits from 1 to 5. For example, the Pekingese entry rates energy level, exercise requirements, playfulness, and ease of training at level 1 (low); affection and friendliness at level 2; and grooming at level 5 (high); and it recommends this breed for lap purposes only. The information provided is perfect for selecting the appropriate pooch based on personality, good looks (check out the Komondor and Puli—black and white “mops”), or grooming and health needs.

Front and back matter include an overview of the breed entries with explanations of ratings, descriptions of the eight AKC groups, a glossary of medical conditions from achondroplasia to zinc responsive dermatitis, a glossary of breed color terms, and a listing of health resources. Entries are consistent in coverage and design, making it easy to compare breeds. This small, spiral-bound book is perfect for circulating or reference collections in school and public libraries.

—Sue Polanka

**Encyclopedia of Asian-American Literature.**

Ed. by Seiwon Oh.


This volume in the Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Literature series focuses attention on literature produced by writers of Asian descent from the mid–nineteenth century to the present. Editor Oh, who chairs the English Department at Rider University, has chosen authors whose works are likely to be read widely in high school and college and works that are generally available. The 200 writers included here have cultural and ethnic origins in Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Japan, Jordan, Laos, North and South Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, and other countries. The list of profiled authors is impressive, ranging from Diana Abu-Jaber to Maxine Hong Kingston and including Khaled Hosseini, Ha Jin, Gish Jen, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Phung Thi Le Ly Hayslip.

The 337 alphabetical, signed, and cross-referenced articles range generally from half

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**Civil War Almanac.**

By John C. Fredriksen.


If ever there was a biblical reference tool that left the reader eagerly anticipating the visual feast on every page, it is the Bible atlas known simply as *Biblica*. The work of Beitzel (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) and an impressive team of contributors, editors, and designers, the volume is an oversize work that seems more suited for a pedestal or a coffee table than the shelf of a library. It offers approximately 650 works of art—a great number of which are paintings from artists like Caravaggio, Henri Laurens, and Pedro Orrente. The artwork depicts biblical scenes, ranging from Joseph’s encounter with Potiphar’s wife to St. Paul’s imprisonment, both of which span an entire page. The paintings are enough to make users forget about the maps they were originally seeking.

The maps (around 125) are original, full color, and generally large enough to make for easy use, though they are often dwarfed by the artwork on adjacent pages. Not to be overlooked is the text of *Biblica*. Like most Bible atlases, the text has the feel of a biblical survey but does much more than simply paraphrase scripture itself. Its intent is to describe the history behind scripture in a readable and insightful manner. This history includes the period between Old and New Testaments, as well. The volume concludes with a “Bible Reference” section containing approximately 20 tables along with a bibliography and glossary and a scripture index, gazetteer, and general index.

Although this atlas has no rivals in terms of its visual appeal, there are others offering more substantial cartographic content. The *Carta Biblica Atlas* (Carta Jerusalem, 2002), for instance, contains twice as many maps as *Biblica* in less than half the size. It is the quality and quantity of the artwork that allows *Biblica* to stand out among other Bible atlases currently on the market. Its surprising affordability makes this atlas a worthwhile reference purchase for most public libraries, including those that already have several Bible atlases in their collection.

—Wade Osburn