The Grey House Homeland Security Directory (Review)

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This generously illustrated and indexed overview is a worthy addition to public and school libraries as well as the reference shelves of journalists and leaders of community events. Information on Halloween can be found in resources such as Folklore of American Holidays (3d ed., Gale, 1998) and Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World Dictionary (3d ed., Omnigraphics, 2003), but The Halloween Encyclopedia offers much more detail.


Nestor does an admirable job of reviewing the Indian-language sources for the names of American cities, towns, and villages. The text, divided by state, presents each name along with county or parish and population based on the 2000 U.S. census. The body of each entry contains a history of the naming averaging 15 lines. Entries cover alternate meanings and spellings, for example, variants of the town of Tehama, California, and of the Potawatomi nation. The bibliography contains extensive listings of books, media articles, and archival materials but little guidance regarding Internet sites. The index lists only place names.

Nestor’s writing style intrigues the reader to examine minutiae of American history, such as the effects on aboriginal cultures of railroads, European diseases, missionaries, outposts, mining, crafts, and trade in hides and whiskey. Commenetary names tribes and their leaders, settlers, and dates and places of significant events, such as immigration over the Oregon Trail and the emergence of the weaving trade in Chimayo, New Mexico. Faults of the book are few but worth mentioning. The author fails to explain criteria for inclusion and to account for the absence of such familiar names as Miami, Florida; Pontiac, Michigan; and the indexing of important people, tribes, and events, such as Lewis and Clark, the Narragansett, and King Philip’s War, would increase the value of the work for a wider range of users. Despite these omissions, the book is a useful, easy-to-use aid for the historian, genealogist, student, teacher, and librarian seeking precise data.


Jesus in History, Thought, and Culture aims to collect and organize a myriad of scholarly commentaries on the life and influence of Jesus of Nazareth. Houlden, professor emeritus at Kings College London, utilizes the expertise of some 100 leading authorities across the globe to clearly articulate the unique position of Jesus Christ in world civilization. These scholars each add their singular interpretations based on academic background, religious affiliation, gender, and nationality to create this encyclopedic mosaic of Jesus. Although heavily influenced by British academics, the text has an international flavor.

The alphabetical arrangement of this set is easily browsed thanks to numerous see also references to parallel or derivative themes. Each of the 200 precisely written and signed articles range in length from two pages (Crossan, J. D.; Didache; Manichaeism; Masculinity; Paranormal) to forty pages (Art, on Jesus’ depiction in art through the ages). A sampling of other articles includes Adoptionism; Baptism; Chinese Christianity; Gnosticism; Hinduism; Jesus, parables of; Second Coming of Jesus and Weil; A bibliography is provided for each entry suggesting additional reading for study or reflection. In its entirety, almost every aspect of the historical Jesus, subsequent theologizing, and cultural interpretation is given a fair and balanced treatment. Reference aids include both a convenient alphabetical and topical list of entries and a concluding glossary of technical terms and comprehensive 80-page general index. Black-and-white illustrations make this encyclopedia aesthetically pleasing. Recommended for academic libraries and large public libraries as well as for appropriate smaller collections.


Intended for use in high-school, public, and academic libraries, these volumes include articles on various causes of pollution and their effects on human and environmental health, on people and organizations that have been active in cleanup, and on agencies and legislation related to these issues. Contributors are connected to government agencies, universities, or scientific organizations.

There are 264 alphabetically arranged articles, from Abatement to Zero population growth. Some articles, such as the excellent Global warming and Spacepollution, deal with specific issues related to pol-