

5-2013

Review: 'American Cars, 1973-1980: Every Model, Year by Year'

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Jack O'Gorman (2013). Review: 'American Cars, 1973-1980: Every Model, Year by Year'. *Booklist.*, https://ecommons.udayton.edu/roesch_fac/42

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REFERENCE BOOKS IN BRIEF

American Cars, 1973–1980: Every Model, Year by Year.

By J. Kelly Flory.

2012. 959p. illus. McFarland, \$75 (9780786443529). 629.22.

This title, part of an ongoing series, chronicles American cars made between 1973 and 1980. Entries include background on the nameplate, models available, cost, and measurements of the vehicle. Photos of the cars are shown by manufacturer and year, and the advertising slogans used to sell the cars are a nice touch to open each entry. Appendixes include minor makes and "replicars" (a copy of a vintage or classic automobile), option groups and packages, tire sizes, identification and recalls, and manufacturer logos. This work for American car enthusiasts may be better suited in the circulating collection than the reference collection and is recommended for public libraries. —*Jack O'Gorman*

Art Songs in the United States, 1759–2011: An Annotated Bibliography, 4th ed.

By Judith E. Carman and others.

2012. 646p. Scarecrow, \$120 (9780810883079). 016.78.

The first edition of this comprehensive bibliography was published in 1978, and subsequent supplements and editions have each increased the coverage. This edition contains 2,850 entries, 470 of which are new. Entries are arranged by composer and by song title under the specific composer, and among the many details provided are the publisher, date of composition, key, vocal range, mood, length, voice type, and recording. There are indexes by composer, poet, special characteristics/subjects, and title. A discography supplements the bibliography with lists of anthology recordings and single-composer recordings. Recommended for academic library collections that support vocal- and performance-studies programs. —*Carolyn Mulac*

Historical Dictionary of Baseball.

By Lyle Spatz.

2012. 504p. Scarecrow, \$115 (9780810878129); e-book, \$109.99 (9780810879546). 796.357.

This general history of baseball opens with a chronology from the eighteenth century to the 2012 season, and then moves to an introductory essay for an in-depth overview. The dictionary portion features more than 900 cross-referenced entries covering people (players, managers, coaches, umpires); teams (the author notes that any team that has ever had major-league status is included as well as prominent teams from

the Negro Leagues); and places (stadiums and ballparks). Twelve appendixes cover various statistics, and an extensive bibliography rounds out the work. This is a good (albeit plain) book for anyone wanting to know more about baseball and is recommended for circulating collections as well. —*Ester Burke*

The History of Iceland.

By Gudni Thorlacius Johannesson.

2013. 172p. Greenwood, \$58 (9780313376207). 949.12.

Dividing the history of Iceland into seven sections chronicling events and conditions in the country from 874 through mid-2012, this history is a basic introduction to a country that is unfamiliar to most Americans. The author enlivens his coverage with interesting stories, such as one of an early chronicler who marveled that the midnight sun was so bright that lice could easily be picked out of clothing. However, this overall informal style makes the book seem less scholarly. A basic chronology opens the book, and short biographies of important figures closes it. Recommended for public and undergraduate libraries; suitable for circulating collections. —*Elaine Lindstrom*

How Information Technology Is Conquering the World: Workplace, Private Life, and Society.

By Kai A. Olsen.

2012. 654p. illus. Scarecrow, paper, \$80 (9780810887206); e-book, \$79.99 (9780810887213). 303.48.

This revised edition of *Formalizing Internet, Web and eBusiness Applications for the Real World* (2005) is extended and updated with more than 300 new pages, including sections on usability, system development, cloud computing, and the digital world, along with new chapters and subchapters. Organized into nine parts, the book addresses the fundamentals and constraints of the Internet, applications, cloud computing, and large data repositories. Because the book is intended as a textbook, each chapter includes cases for study and discussion. A heavy book, it is recommended as a textbook for college-level courses or for serious researchers in the field of information technology in the workplace, private life, and society. —*Sara Marcus*

The Margaret Mitchell Encyclopedia.

By Anita Price Davis.

May 2013. 227p. illus. McFarland, paper, \$75 (9780786468553). 920.

This book begins with a chronology of Margaret Mitchell's life, followed by

alphabetically organized topics relating to her works, her effect on Atlanta, and tributes to her and her family. Entries range in length from a short paragraph to several pages. Some entries are quite obscure: *Monkeys*, for example, discusses Mitchell's love of animals and contains a picture of her holding a monkey. There is an extensive bibliography of books and websites for further research. A family tree would have been a worthwhile asset to this encyclopedia. This is suitable for public and academic libraries where there is an interest in Mitchell. —*Carol Sue Harless*

The Real History of the Vietnam War: A New Look at the Past.

By Alan Axelrod.

May 2013. 384p. illus. Sterling, \$24.95 (9781402790256). 959.7.

This captivating volume is full of multi-colored fonts, attractive sidebars, full-color maps, and both black-and-white and color photographs. There are images of primary resources—like Nixon's resignation letter—and even a photograph of a soldier's Zippo lighter, ironically personalized with a peace sign. Contentwise, it attempts to cover all aspects of the sometimes convoluted history of America's involvement in Vietnam, and it does an excellent job of summarizing the most important aspects of the war in a relatively small volume. Its glitzy approach may be enough to entice younger users away from total reliance on the Internet. Recommended for circulating collections. —*Michael Tosko*

YA/C: Attractive and informative, this is suitable for high-school collections. RV.

Sherry, Manzanilla, & Montilla: A Guide to the Traditional Wines of Andalucía.

By Pierre Liem and Jesus Barquin.

2012. 270p. Manutius, \$29.95 (9780985981501). 641.2.

Often considered inferior within the realm of great wines, sherry has now found a champion to correct the misunderstanding. Wine connoisseurs and novices alike will find the extensive research and comprehensive guide to the Marco de Jerez region a crucial resource to further their understanding of these unique wines. Offering a historical and technical context, this resource is also a valuable guide for venturing to the greater Andalucía region, with details on great sherry bodegas and travel tips. The exhaustive bibliography and notes sections, along with an accompanying website, greatly supplement this excellent reference. Suitable for public and academic libraries. —*Becca Smith*