The Encyclopedia of New York

Robert Tench

Old Dominion University, ftench@odu.edu

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ATLASES
This work from the editors of New York Magazine details how innovation and ideas that germinate in New York City ultimately shape life and thought in the rest of the nation and the world. The book superbly details the Big Apple’s evolution from a mercantile and manufacturing hub into the country’s financial center and intellectual home for book publishers, fashion houses, art galleries, ad agencies, and media outlets. The layout is simple, with an introduction, a section of 121 milestones in the life of the city, and hundreds of brief, alphabetically arranged entries. Instead of a steady stream of historical and political personalities and events, the editors focus on the ways that creativity, imagination, and resourcefulness shaped the area’s culture—from the I Love New York campaign to the development of hip-hop to the origin of the Oreo. The depth and variety of images, including cartoons, iconic pictures, magazine covers, and newspaper headlines, capture the city’s character and make the book a standout.
VERDICT A must purchase; those who love New York will still find this fun and informative encyclopedia a fascinating portrait of the metropolitan area.—Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA

HISTORY
Genocide scholar and history professor Bartrop, and lawyer and Holocaust consultant Grimm follow their collaboration, Perpetrating the Holocaust, with a wrenching consideration of children during the Holocaust—sufferers, survivors, perpetrators, and protectors (women, men, adolescents). A preface and introduction establish the context and the taxonomy of “vulnerability,” “morality,” and “rescue.” Further reading follows each entry; 10 wide-ranging primary documents (personal and political, each with brief introductions and commentary) are appended. Almost 75 entries focus on individuals, several others on institutions or places, and the rest on such specifics as Hitler Youth, circumcision, border crossing, smuggling, liberation, medical experimentation, diaries, and more. The clear, balanced entries reflect the widely differing backgrounds of those who tried to help Jews, and the tragedy of children lost to starvation, cold, overwork, disease, experimentation, or extermination. Among the rescuers are an Indian maharaja and a woman, recognized only posthumously, who saved more than 15,000 children in Yugoslavia; among the victims, Afro-German children; among the murderers, a doctor who evaded responsibility for 20 years and died unrepentant after only 14 months in prison.
VERDICT Often chilling, sometimes inspiring, expressively moving, this volume, while not comprehensive, provides an essential record for all readers interested in history, morality, politics, and human nature.—Patricia D. Lothrop, formerly of St. George’s Sch., Newport, RI

PERFORMING ARTS
With the recent passing of Sean Connery, film historian Rubin’s (The Twilight Zone Encyclopedia) dense title isn’t the completely up-to-date reference work it purports to be—but that’s the only thing wrong with it. First published in the early 1980s, the volume has been through numerous iterations, and while all have shared a detailed construction comprised of facts, anecdotes, interviews, trivia, and biographies, this latest edition is distinguished by the hundreds of photographs, most of which are new (many donated to Rubin by the legion of Bond fans around the world). The gadgets, the varied locales, the villains that viewers love to hate, and the bountiful bevy of Bond girls are all part of this rich, well-designed tome. Entries for each Bond film (24 and counting) include production and box office gross financial data, a plot synopsis, full cast and crew credits, and a delightful “Behind the Scenes” section with interviews and backstory.
VERDICT Pair this trivia book with Edward Gross and Mark Altman’s Nobody Does It Better: The Complete, Uncensored, Unauthorized Oral History of James Bond for a comprehensive history of all things Bond.—Barry X. Miller, Austin P.L., TX

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Hillstrom (Black Lives Matter: From a Moment to a Movement) explores policies at the U.S.-Mexico border that call for families to be separated and children to be detained. The sometimes distressing, but dispassion-