The macabre secret history of the undead . . .

Real Zombies, the Living Dead, and Creatures of the Apocalypse

Brad Steiger

Featuring 30 chilling stories of real life zombie encounters, this comprehensive and unsettling study draws upon traditions found throughout the world to dispel common depictions of zombies as lurching, flesh-eating automatons made popular by countless movies and books.

This fascinating collection includes the stories of the Devil Baby of Bourbon Street, a monstrous creature complete with horns and tail that still lurks in the shadows of the Big Easy; Black Mama Courteaux and the great zombie war, involving hundreds of zombie soldiers battling for the supremacy of their queen; and the swamp child of Mama Cree, who still roams the bayous of Louisiana. In addition to the stories, a variety of zombie-related facts are explored, including ceremonies and initiations, zombies throughout history, sacred zombie and voodoo-related sites, and zombies and monsters of the Bible.

Brad Steiger is the award-winning author of more than 100 books, including Real Ghosts, Restless Spirits, and Haunted Houses; Real Vampires, Night Stalkers, and Creatures from the Darkside; and The Werewolf Book. He is a regular radio guest on the Allan Handelman Show, Coast to Coast, and Jeff Rense’s Sightings. He lives in Forest City, Iowa.

ISBN: 978-1-57859-296-8
MAY 2010
300 pages
100 B/W Photos & Illustrations
7.25 x 9.25” paperback
$24.95 (CAN $27.95)
Hidden Realms, Lost Civilizations, and Beings from Other Worlds

Jerome Clark

Claims of supernatural realms, parallel worlds, and lost civilizations are put to the test in this well-researched guide to the unexplained. Firsthand accounts and historical documents are explored, and in-depth coverage is provided on the mysteries of imagination, culture, perception, consciousness, being, and more.

Included are Richard S. Shaver’s personal experience of hell—replete with demons and ghouls—modern and ancient accounts of fairyland, life on Mars, alien worlds, parallel universes, and mystery airships. Also examined are the supernatural myths surrounding Mount Shasta, which include accounts of telepathic Lemurians living on its slopes, as reported by the Los Angeles Times. More than 40 beliefs, doctrines, experiences, and places are described and explored in this truly comprehensive guide to the wacky, weird, and otherworldly.

Jerome Clark is the prize-winning author of more than a dozen books, including Strange Skies: Pilot Encounters with UFOs; The UFO Book; and Unexplained!: Strange Sightings, Incredible Occurrences, and Puzzling Physical Phenomena. He serves on the board of the J. Allen Center for UFO Studies and is the co-editor of its magazine, International UFO Reporter. In 2008 he received the Dinsdale Award given by The Society of Scientific Exploration for significant contributions to the expansion of human understanding through the study of unexplained phenomena. He lives in Canby, Minnesota.

The Handy Law Answer Book

David L. Hudson, Jr., JD

Combining practical legal tips with an exhaustive overview of the law in the United States, this comprehensive reference answers more than 1,200 questions ranging from “Where did the word tort come from?” and “How are state court judges selected?” to “Where did the first U.S. Supreme Court meet?” Useful advice includes how to find a lawyer; how to file a complaint against a lawyer; how to document discrimination in the workplace; and how to handle oneself in court.

Interspersed throughout are fun sidebars highlighting important cases and explanations of legal terms as well as entertaining information on bizarre and frivolous lawsuits, including one where a prisoner in Colorado sued prison officials after he injured himself during an escape attempt.

With a wide range of information suitable for various knowledge bases—from junior high to junior college—this is an ideal source for anyone looking to get a better understanding of the law.

David Hudson, Jr., JD, is the author or co-author of more than 20 books, including The American Bar Association Guide to Credit and Bankruptcy, The Encyclopedia of the First Amendment, and The Handy Supreme Court Answer Book. He works as a First Amendment scholar at the First Amendment Center and teaches at Vanderbilt Law School, the Nashville School of Law, and Middle Tennessee State University. He lives in Smyrna, Tennessee.
Angels A to Z, 2nd Edition
Evelyn Dorothy Oliver, Ph.D. and James R. Lewis, Ph.D.

"Everything you ever wanted to know about angels." — Minneapolis Star Tribune

"It's not just limited to the angels of Christianity, touching on Islamic and Nordic angels as well. Any angel lover will find "Angels A to Z" a top pick and highly recommended..." — The Midwest Book Review

"For those who feel they've had personal encounters with otherworldly creatures, the book will provide interesting background to a profound experience; those merely intrigued will find a cultural reference and historical perspectives on these "messengers of God." — ForeWord

"[Angels A to Z] compiles angel facts and lore in short readable citations. For quick trivia, this book works . . . " — Library Journal

"Anything and everything related to angels can be found in this book. This work will be a great addition to any library's reference collection." — American Reference Books

"Angels A to Z is a thorough, encyclopedia-style volume on angelic beings and all things angel-related. Discover how cultures throughout history have represented angels in their mythology, folklore, art, literature, and religious doctrine." — FATE magazine

The most comprehensive book on angels and related topics currently available. More than 300 entries are included and drawn from multiple religions, such as Christianity, Islam, and Hindu traditions, as well as from pop culture.

Armageddon Now
The End of the World A to Z
Jim Willis and Barbara Willis

So you don’t believe we’re on the eve of destruction? Authors Jim and Barbara Willis mine the religious and secular divide as they examine the history of apocalyptic beliefs in Armageddon Now. The authors explain the various omens and prophecies as well as the actual events that may trigger the end, such as collisions with asteroids, nuclear war, the oil crisis, global warming, and famine. But as the authors point out, there have always been plenty of signs pointing to the boom in gloom: predicting the order of finish kept Nostradamus in print for centuries, and the ancient Mayans helpfully projected that calendar sales would drop to nothing after 2012. They are all part of the long history on the end of history.

The Astrology Book
The Encyclopedia of Heavenly Influences, 2nd Edition
James R. Lewis

"It is hard to imagine a more comprehensive reference encyclopedia to this topic than the volume at hand." — American Reference Books.

"Although aimed at the believer, Lewis’ work may be confidently consulted by the skeptic seeking basic information about astrology." — Booklist

"This is the one to have." — Choice

This comprehensive guide includes a table of astrological glyphs and abbreviations, a section on casting a chart, and a chapter that explains and interprets every planet in every house and sign.
Conspiracies and Secret Societies

The Complete Dossier

Brad Steiger and Sherry Hansen Steiger

“This is a captivating look at a topic that fascinates many. Recommended . . .”
— Booklist.

“I predict this book will come to be the standard by which all efforts at codifying the
world’s hidden—and inextricably linked—power mechanisms will be judged.”
— Jeff Rense, Editor-in-Chief of Rense.com

The truth is out there, somewhere, maybe. In this age of minimum individual
privacy and maximum government secrecy, the truth sometimes seems a battered
relic, more myth than reality, and more valuable for its rarity. Shedding light onto
the darkest and most enduring of stories, Conspiracies and Secret Societies:
The Complete Dossier is a compelling encyclopedic overview of 300 individuals,
organizations, and events where official claims and standard explanations of actions
and events remain clouded in mystery.

ISBN 9781578591749
2006, 560 pages
100 photos & illustrations
7.25” x 9.25” paperback
$24.95 ($32.95 Can.)

Phenomena / Spiritual

The Dream Encyclopedia, 2nd edition

James R. Lewis, Ph.D. and Evelyn Dorothy Oliver, Ph.D.

“Whether one is a serious student of dreams, or wishes merely to peruse the
volume for pleasure, one cannot help but learn something about the fascinating
world of dreams from Lewis’s helpful contribution to the literature on the
subject.” — ForeWord Magazine

“A very convenient one-volume reference on everything you might want
to read regarding dreams and dream interpretation.” — About.com

“Recommended.” — Booklist

Hundreds of dream-related topics and symbols examined and explained. Exploring
the fascinating world of dreams, this comprehensive reference examines more than
250 dream-related topics, from art to history to science, including how factors such as
self-healing, ESP, literature, religion, sex, cognition and memory, and medical
conditions can all have an effect on dreams. Dream symbolism and interpretation is
examined in historical, cultural, and psychological detail, while a dictionary—updated
with 1,000 symbols and explanations—offers further insights. Dreaming about teeth,
for instance, can indicate control issues, and dreaming of a zoo can indicate that the
dreamer needs to tidy up some situation. Examining these concepts and more, this
is the ultimate dreamer’s companion.

ISBN: 9781578592166
2009, 432 pages
75 photos & illustrations
7.25” x 9.25” paperback
$24.95 (Can. $27.95)

The Encyclopedia of Religious Phenomena

J. Gordon Melton

“Melton is a longtime researcher in esoteric traditions and new or unconventional
religious movements, subjects on which he has written extensively. The book is
fascinating to flip through, will interest a wide range of readers, and is written for
nonexperts.” — Library Journal

“If you can’t learn an interesting bunch of facts from this book, you must already
have a doctorate on the topic.” — The Modesto Bee

“This is an entertaining and fascinating look at an astonishing variety of ways that
people experience belief.” — The Dallas Morning News

“From the sensational to the conventional, this book covers it.” — About.com

“The [book’s] result cannot help but be inspiring or alarming, depending on your
understanding of true faith.” — Reference & Research Book News

From sacred mountains and places of pilgrimage to visions and out-of-body travel, this
reference explores unusual and unexplained physical events, apparitions, and other
phenomena rooted in religious beliefs.

ISBN: 9781578592098
2007, 392 pages
100 photos & illustrations
7.25” x 9.25” paperback
$24.95 ($32.95 Can.)
The Fortune-Telling Book
The Encyclopedia of Divination and Soothsaying

Raymond Buckland

“. . . an excellent resource for important methods, personalities, and locales in the world of divination. A high-quality book, which is well-written and easy to use. Highly recommended.” – American Reference Books.

“Easy to use.” – Library Journal

An A-Z exploration of all that peers into tomorrow, The Fortune-Telling Book divines the meaning of 400 of the most meaningful topics related to this oft-misunderstood, oft-consulted-upon science, from aeromancy (seeing by observing atmospheric phenomena) to zoomancy (divination by the appearance or behavior of animals) and the 398 others in between. A master of his art, Buckland received the 1999 Visionary Award for his book Gypsy Witchcraft and Magic, and his Buckland Romani Tarot received the same award in 2002.

Real Ghosts, Restless Spirits, and Haunted Places

Brad Steiger

“Steiger’s new book is a mammoth undertaking that should be taken a few chapters at a time and savored the way one would enjoy a good meal in one of the author’s haunted restaurants. Everyone . . . should have a copy.” – FATE magazine.

“Whether or not you are inclined to believe in such things, the hundreds of stories make for fascinating reading, and many of the photographs are mesmerizing.” – Cleveland Plain Dealer

“This excellent collection of ghost encounters will both warm the heart and scare you out of your wits.” – Library Journal

“This is actually the most extensive accounting of true stories that I have ever seen. If you are an enthusiast, just curious, or perhaps just love to read ghost stories, you cannot miss out.” – Midwest Book Review

“This is one of the most complete collections that I have seen so far and the quality is very good.” – Joel Anthony Gray, Director, Society for Paranormal Investigation

Real Miracles, Divine Intervention, and Feats of Incredible Survival

Brad Steiger and Sherry Hansen Steiger

Lightning strikes, lotteries, and Lourdes—miracles really do happen!

Including more than 200 true, thought-provoking stories, this inspirational collection provides a fascinating glimpse into the world of unexplained phenomena and survival against overwhelming odds. A wide range of topics and circumstances is covered, including angelic interventions, surviving airplane crashes and cataclysmic natural disasters, medical miracles, amazing sea rescues, miracles on the highway, and near-death experiences. Remarkable stories include how a sky diver plummeted more than 4,000 feet and walked away with only a cut, how a mother and her children ride out a tornado atop an airborne mattress and survive, and how a group of dolphins rescued a swimmer from a shark attack.
Real Vampires, Night Stalkers and Creatures from the Darkside

Brad Steiger

A chilling chronicle of the often ignored history of vampirism as it has surfaced repeatedly in news articles, historical accounts, and first person interviews, this shocking account of occultist rituals and the inhuman forces that influence them shines a light on the horrifying truth. Revealing that real vampires are not immortal, do not have fangs or sleep in coffins, and have no fear of sunlight or crucifixes, the examination dispels many myths but also confirms the truth behind several traits of real vampires, such as the insatiable thirst for blood and the dream of an eternal soul.

Complete with 30 spine-tingling tales of the hideous wraiths and creatures that lurk in shadow, this fascinating collection includes the stories of the Mexican prostitute who mesmerized an entire village, convincing them she was an Incan goddess who required human sacrifice for her magic; the three teenagers who left a trail across the South as they conducted blood-drinking rituals with animals; and the mysterious Lady in Black who draws psychic energy from men who dare approach her as she wanders through city streets and parks.

The Religion Book

Places, Prophets, Saints, and Seers

Jim Willis

"This concise and accessible encyclopedia contains nearly 300 entries on the world's major religions, as well as important articles on important holy places...prophets and historical figures...and spiritual practices and religions that predate organized religion. . . ." – Library Journal.

"...in a world of religious war and murderous rhetoric, [The Religion Book] is that rare thing—a spiritual labor of patience and fairness." – Nashville Tennessean

"...this is a fascinating book...the book's appeal lies in its lively writing and thoughtful, personal approach. . . ." – School Library Journal

From Aaron to Zoroastrianism (once the dominant religion in Persia), The Religion Book provides an encyclopedic look at the practices of yesterday and today. Christians, Buddhists, Wiccans and the rest may have questions about others' belief or even their own, and The Religion Book expertly explains the similarities, differences, and original ideologies of believers and skeptics around the world.

The Spirit Book

The Encyclopedia of Clairvoyance, Channeling, and Spirit Communication

Raymond Buckland

"Students of the goofyly strange will go for this ‘encyclopedia of clairvoyance, channeling and spirit communication.’” – PEOPLE Magazine.

"The Spirit Book, the latest in Wicca Buckland’s extensive occult oeuvre (Buckland’s Book of Spirit Communications), cuts a wide swath through the history of spiritualism, its precursors, and widely related supernatural subjects. . . . There is nothing else quite like this resource on the market.” – Library Journal

The Spirit Book explores Qabbalah, Sibyls, Fairies, Poltergeists; phenomena such as intuition and karma; objects useful in the attempt to cross the divide, including tarot cards, flower reading, and runes; and related practices such as Shamanism, transfiguration, meditation, and mesmerism. The Encyclopedia covers the history of Spiritualism as well as offshoots such as Kardecism, channeling, fraud, psychic research, and possession.
Phenomena / Spiritual

Unexplained!
Strange Sightings, Incredible Occurrences, and Puzzling Physical Phenomena, 2nd Edition
Jerome Clark

"Should warm the heart of any serious observer of the weird world in which we live. It will disturb doubters, scandalize skeptics, and readjust the realities of those whose tunnel vision has blinded them." — FATE magazine.

Now insatiable fans of the supernatural, occult, and just plain perplexing can rejoice as trusted investigator Jerome Clark journeys to the outer limits of science and nature in an updated and expanded edition of this popular work. Clark explores a wide range of phenomena, documenting the evidence and hearing the witnesses out. Two hundred mysteries and hoaxes are thoroughly examined, including cattle mutilations, crop circles, spontaneous human combustion, Martian lore, Roswell, Loch Ness, the Old Hag, weather phenomena, faeries, Bigfoot, the Bermuda Triangle, living dinosaurs, ghosts, pterodactyl sightings, flying humanoids, hollow earth, and other absorbing puzzles. Along the way readers will learn of hoaxes and witness the creation of various modern myths.

ISBN 9781578590704
1999, 672 pages
150 photos & illustrations
7.25” x 9.25” paperback
$29.95 ($32.95 Can.)

The Vampire Book
The Encyclopedia of the Undead, 2nd Edition
J. Gordon Melton

"An excellent reference. This remarkable amalgam of the popular and the scholarly is highly recommended." — Choice

"The most comprehensive collection of vampire lore, with entries on everything from African Vampires to Yama, the God of Death." — Chicago Tribune.

"Anything and everything you ever wanted or needed to know about vampires is found within this massive 900-page reference. The mere writing of such a massive undertaking as this book would be a seemingly impossible task, but the author pulls it off nicely. . . . I highly recommend this book." — Horror Classics Book Review

"This impressive compendium is a valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in researching vampires or vampirism." — Journal of American Folklore

Renowned religion expert and fearless vampire authority J. Gordon Melton takes the reader on a vast, alphabetic tour of the psychosexual, macabre world of the blood-sucking undead. From Vlad the Impaler to Barnabas Collins to Dracula and Lestat, The Vampire Book supplies nearly 500 exhaustive essays illustrated with more than 250 photos.

ISBN 9781578590711
1999, 960 pages
250 photos & drawings
7.25” x 9.25” paperback
$34.95 ($38.95 Can.)

The Werewolf Book
The Encyclopedia of Shape-Shifting Beings
Brad Steiger

"Brad Steiger’s magnum opus, a labor of deep scholarship elegantly written. As a reference source, it is invaluable for anyone interested in pursuing the werewolf." — Ancient American magazine.

"From A to Z, Brad Steiger presents a true encyclopedia of werewolfism, a reference masterpiece, overflowing with fascinating information to make readers think and shudder."— FATE magazine.

"It is with reverence to its awesome scope that we recommend it to anyone even marginally interested in the topic." — Rue Morgue magazine

The Werewolf Book is the encyclopedic guide to all things lycanthropic and a fascinating compendium of comparative mythology and folklore. Noted paranormal author Brad Steiger takes you back to the 15th century to uncover the origins of the werewolf legend then leads you on a blood-pounding tour through the ages, including hirsute mass-murderer Charles Manson and canine-directed Son of Sam.

ISBN 9781578590780
1999, 432 pages
125 photos & illustrations
7.25” x 9.25” paperback
$21.95 ($29.95 Can.)
The Witch Book

The Encyclopedia of Witchcraft, Wicca, and Neo-paganism

Raymond Buckland

"An excellent reference source for those researching the historical and contemporary world of witchcraft." — American Reference Books

"Through 560 entries, this encyclopedic reference includes biographies of major figures, reviews the portrayal of witches and witchcraft in popular movies and books, discusses the persecution of witches over the ages, and explains key concepts important to Wiccan beliefs and practices. Just about everything a person might want to learn about witches and witchcraft can be found in this one volume." — About.com

"Enjoyable for general reading purposes, it is also an incredible referencing of material... Buckland's The Witch Book is highly recommended." — ghostvillage.com

Best-selling occult author Raymond Buckland defines both the darker Christian concept and the true concept of Wicca, concentrating on the Western European and later New World versions of Witchcraft and magic in this exhaustive A-to-Z exploration of people, places, events, literature, and other matters related to witches and witchcraft.

The Handy Anatomy Answer Book

Naomi E. Balaban and James Bobick

"This engaging book will help readers understand the language of anatomy. This is a great reference book." — National Science Teachers Association

"For curious browsers and a good quick-answer source for teens’ questions. Students interested in careers in health or medicine will pore over this book with the avidity their younger siblings devote to books about dinosaurs." — School Library Journal

"This book can provide an excellent way to read and self-test for health and human biology classes. Adults wanting to know more about the subjects covered will also find a wealth of useful and accessible information." — VOYA

"The information is concise, clearly written, and easy to understand. Photographs and illustrations supplement the information and are in color with captions and identifying labels." — American Reference Books

From basic biology to the lymphatic system to human growth and development, this comprehensive reference—organized by systems of the body—makes anatomy understandable through an engaging question-and-answer format.
The Handy Answer Book for Kids (and Parents), Second edition
Gina Misiroglu

“The biggest problem for parents with inquisitive children is not knowing the answers. For those times, consider [this book].” — Boston Globe on the first edition

“Parents . . . can reach for [this resource] when their kids throw a doozy of a question their way.” — San Diego Union-Tribune on the first edition

As a launching pad for inquisitive young minds and a life raft for parents at wits end, this collection addresses a critical part of being a kid: asking questions. A wide variety of questions are answered, such as Is there life on Mars? Do rivers ever dry up? Why are there wars? Is there such a thing as a funny bone? What is DNA? Having this nearby will equip every parent for those difficult, absurd, or sometimes funny questions from their kids.

ISBN: 9781578592197
2009, 352 pages in color
100 color photos & illustrations
6.8” x 9.7” paperback
$21.95 (Can. $24.95)

The Handy Astronomy Answer Book
Charles Liu, Ph.D.

“This book delivers on the promises of “Your Smart Reference” on the topic. A logical addition to the publisher’s ‘Answer Book’ series, this engaging and entertaining publication will appeal to students and adults alike.” — School Library Journal

“Poses hundreds of heady questions about such matters as the Big Bang, sunspots, black holes, quarks, neutrinos and Carl Sagan. [A] handy reference . . . accessible writing and careful structure [convey] the pleasures of science and discovery.” — Kirkus Reviews

“A valuable resource that can be used by both teachers and students as a reference or read from cover to cover.” — National Science Teachers Association

“The book is written in understandable language, but the answers are not oversimplified and provide sufficient detail for understanding the concept or feature described, making this book appropriate for readers for high school to college.” — American Reference Books

“The Handy Astronomy Answer Book is a solid recommendation to anyone who is in love with what lies beyond the Earth.” — Midwest Book Review

ISBN: 9781578591930
2008, 352 pages in color
100 color photos & illustrations
6.8” x 9.7” paperback
$21.95 ($24.95 Can.)

The Handy Biology Answer Book
James Bobick, Naomi Balaban, Sandra Bobick, and Laurel Roberts

“This book best serves public libraries and high school media centers. These students as well as the general public will find the text engaging and the material useful.” — American Reference Books

“The Handy Biology Answer Book . . . is the ultimate reference guide to life science.” — Bella Online

“Everything you’ve always wanted to know about biology (and probably much more) has been asked and answered in this informative, engrossing and entertaining book.” — University of Pittsburgh

Handy Biology answers 1,600 questions about human, animal, and plant biology. You’ll find answers to such intriguing questions as: What is cell cloning? What is DNA and RNA? Can two blue-eyed people have a brown-eyed child? How serious a disease is influenza? Do overweight children have a greater risk of being overweight adults? Why are some fats “good”? and others “bad”? Why do humans need cholesterol? How do birds know to fly south in winter? Can the environment determine the sex of an animal? When was the first microscope developed?

ISBN 9781578591503
2004, 608 pages
150 illustrations, tables & charts
7.25” x 9.25” paperback
$21.95 ($32.95 Can.)
The Handy Dinosaur Answer Book, Second edition
Patricia Barnes-Svarney and Thomas E. Svarney

“This book . . . has a wealth of information about dinosaurs.” — National Science Teachers Association on the first edition

“Ideal for readers of all ages and examining scientific history and wonders with a set of commonly asked facts and figures.” — Midwest Book Review on the first edition

From the Tyrannosaurus rex to the Stegosaurus, this fun-filled fact-book answers 800 questions about dinosaurs and profiles numerous species, chronicling their time on earth and exploring their roles in archaeological expeditions and museums today.

Delightful and intriguing, this comprehensive record includes the debates still surrounding the origins and fate of these creatures that dominated the earth for millions of years but seemed to disappear in the blink of an eye.

ISBN: 9781578592180
2010, 336 pages in color
100 color photos & illustrations
6.8” X 9.7” paperback
$21.95 (Can. $24.95)

The Handy Geography Answer Book
Second Edition
Paul A. Tucci and Matthew T. Rosenberg

"Reader-friendly. Leads the geographically illiterate along to a better understanding of what happened where and why. A great reference.” — San Antonio Express-News

"Top 10 Basic Geography Book" — About.com

From discovering why every map is distorted to why Rhode Island is called an island even though it’s not, this comprehensive reference simplifies geography in an approachable question-and-answer format. All aspects of the discipline are covered, including physical, economic, political, and cultural geography. Some of the questions answered include Who carved Mount Rushmore? What is the average life expectancy in Japan? and What were the seven wonders of the ancient world? Ideal for students and teachers, this resource is for all those curious about our world.

ISBN: 9781578592159
2009, 416 pages
100 photos, illustrations & maps
7.25” x 9.25” paperback
$21.95 (Can. $23.95)

The Handy Geology Answer Book
Patricia Barnes-Svarney and Thomas E. Svarney

“ ... offers clear, detailed explanations of the many fascinating and diverse aspects of geology. The book is written in understandable language, but the answers are not over-simplified . . . ” — American Reference Books.

“ ... invites browsing and injects a fun style into the learning process.” — Bookwatch

The award-winning science writers answer such puzzlers as: What is the theory of continental drift? What are polarity reversals? They deliver captivating reading and easy understanding of the complexities that shaped our planet, as they answer nearly 1,000 of the most often asked questions. Tracing the formation of the universe and the planet, investigating the layers of the Earth, and explaining the formation of mountains and bodies of water are just some of the chapters.

ISBN 9781578591565
2004, 512 pages
125 photos & illustrations
7.25” x 9.25” paperback
$21.95 ($32.95 Can.)
The Handy History Answer Book, 2nd Edition
Rebecca Ferguson

All things must pass. In an understatement of historic proportions, quite a few things have passed since the end of the last millennium. Some of the history making events include the election of George W. Bush, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; a devastating earthquake in Iran and the deadly tsunami in Asia; the downfall of Enron and the comeback of Apple, not to mention the dot.com bubble burst and whatever happened to the budget surplus? Whew! A new era has taken shape, and *The Handy History Answer Book* records it. *Handy History* addresses people, times, and events in a wide-ranging and comprehensive manner, complemented by nearly 200 illustrations and, for those who like their history instant, a chronology of major events. *The Handy History Answer Book* organizes information in thirteen specific subject sections ranging from politics to war to science to religion. It tackles exploration and settlement, technological advances, legal fireworks, financial and business events, social movements, natural and man-made disasters, medicine and disease, and art and culture. *The Handy History Answer Book* is a fingertips, time-traveling guide through the pages of history.

The Handy Math Answer Book
Patricia Barnes-Svarney and Thomas E. Svarney

Without math, how would romance survive? Where would we be without pluses and minuses? Without public opinion and box office tallies? Without measuring cups, calorie counters, or computer technology? More than just a class you tried to avoid, math defines modern life. Math is too complicated. Math is too hard. Not anymore. *The Handy Math Answer Book* eliminates the instant headache and helps the many math-challenged among us better understand and enjoy the magic of numbers. From modern-day challenges such as balancing a checkbook, following the stock market, buying a home, and figuring out credit card finance charges to appreciating historical developments like the use of algebra by Mesopotamian mathematicians, *The Handy Math Answer Book* addresses more than 1,000 questions relating to mathematics. *Handy Math* provides a complete overview, beginning with the early history—Pythagoras and "the music of the spheres," Archimedes and his "Eureka!" moment in the bathtub, and how some of the first calendars were invented. Catch yourself falling for the gravity of Newton and winding your way around modern-day string theory. Refresh yourself on the basics and fundamentals of algebra, calculus, geometry, and trigonometry. *Handy Math* provides clear and concise explanations to paradoxes, theories, and other branches of mathematics, plus the numbers we see daily in statistics, financial and market reports, real estate evaluations, and measurements of all kinds.

The Handy Ocean Answer Book
Thomas E. Svarney and Patricia Barnes-Svarney

"This fascinating question and answer book reveals over 1,000 . . . interesting facts about the world’s bodies of salt water in a simple, understandable format.” – *Scitech Book News*

"It’s an interesting book to own.” – *National Science Teachers Association*

"It opens up a treasure chest of information on topics such as waterspouts, whirlpools, ocean shelves, tides and quakes, plus the effects of pollution and ocean warming.” – *Decatur Herald & Review*

Covering 70 percent of the surface area of our globe, the oceans are vast and mysterious and primal and pretty much everywhere you go. What is El Niño and how does it affect the oceans and the weather? What is a riptide? Where does the salt in seawater come from? Are there mountains undersea? How many species of fish exist in the world? *The Handy Ocean Answer Book* tackles these and 1,000 other questions on ocean life, waterspouts, whirlpools, ocean shelves, tides and quakes, ocean bottoms, navigation, famous shipwrecks, and the effects of pollution and global warming.
The Handy Philosophy Answer Book
Naomi Zack, PhD

Combining a basic history of philosophical thought with the often quirky personal stories of famous philosophers, this comprehensive introduction to the world of philosophy answers more than 1,000 questions, ranging from What was the Enlightenment? to Why did the Pythagorians avoid fava beans? Analyzing the collective effort of philosophers throughout history in the pursuit of truth and wisdom, the guide explores the tangible significance of philosophical thought to modern society and civilization as a whole. With a wide range of information suitable for various knowledge bases—from junior high to junior college—this is an ideal resource for anyone looking to get a better grasp of the history of thought.

Naomi Zack, PhD, is a professor of philosophy at the University of Oregon who has also taught at the University at Albany and the State University of New York. She is the author of Inclusive Feminism, Philosophy of Science and Race, Thinking About Race, and Women of Color and Philosophy. She lives in Eugene, Oregon.

The Handy Physics Answer Book
P. Erik Gundersen

"If you wondered about one physics idea a day, this resource would answer your questions for over two years... Every aspect of our daily life is governed by physics, so this is an extremely useful... resource." – National Science Teachers Association

What, really, does E=MC2 mean? The Handy Physics Answer Book tackles the big issues: Gravity. Magnetism. Matter. Sound. Light. And the smaller topics, like why do cats always land on their feet? Why don’t birds or squirrels on power lines get electrocuted? For everyone who ever wondered how a light bulb works, The Handy Physics Answer Book examines more than 825 basic questions about physics and physicists, ranging from everyday life applications to the latest explorations in subatomic physics. The Handy Physics Answer Book is your friendly guide to the most significant scientific theories and discoveries of our time.

The Handy Politics Answer Book
Gina Misiroglu

"... this easy-to-navigate book removes complexity from a serious subject: government." – Tampa Tribune & Times

“This reference is a meaningful addition to the educational tools [for] students as well as general political observers and voters who want to better understand the issues of the day.” – American Reference Books

The Handy Politics Answer Book dares to ask the tough questions (not like the ones reporters lob at incumbents) and answers every one thoroughly and clearly (without the usual political side-stepping and spin tactics). Fifteen chapters explore politics from our founding fathers to current trends, from our branches of government to how they work together (or don’t), from noteworthy people and officials to major events. It answers an array of questions, like, “Why were Medicare and Medicaid created?” “What are civil liberties?” “What is due process of law?” “What is the United Nations?” “What is considered the dirtiest presidential campaign on record?” And, “If the president has a job description, what is it?”
The Handy Religion Answer Book
John Renard

“Anyone – student, news junkie or bet-settler – who needs quick access to information about a major religion would do well to have this . . . book nearby.” – New York Daily News.

“Renard . . . has produced a book that is inviting to sit down and read through chapter by chapter.” – St. Louis Post-Dispatch

“Understanding religion . . . is an important key to understanding human culture and history. The average reader should benefit greatly from this resource.” – About.com

The Handy Religion Answer Book provides solid descriptions of major beliefs and rituals. Written by a scholar with 30 years of study and teaching experience, Handy Religion is an easy-to-use comparative guide for anyone seeking basic religious literacy and intellectual history. The Handy Religion Answer Book looks specifically at the world’s religious traditions that trace their origins to the Middle East (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), South East Asia (Buddhism, Hinduism), and East Asia (Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto). Dr. John Renard examines each religion for history and sources, religious beliefs, signs and symbols, membership, community, diversity, leadership, authority, organization, personalities, and powers, holidays and regular observances, and customs and rituals.

The Handy Science Answer Book®
Centennial Edition

The Science and Technology Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

“Here’s a way to answer those burning questions you wonder about, or the ones your teacher asks for homework.” – Dallas Morning News

“A compulsively browsable collection of over 1,200 questions and answers on science, technology, and pseudo-science written in nontechnical language [full of] gems of useful and interesting information.” – Library Journal

“Easily read by students in grades 4–12, this resource invites the curious mind to explore. . . . What a fun and educational way to explore the wonders of the world of science, the world in which we live.” – National Science Teachers Association

“. . . this science resource will resolve arguments, support homework assignments, provide engaging trivia, and help satisfy readers’ curiosity.” – SciTech Book News

The Handy Science Answer Book®, Centennial Edition, is a great reference that collects 1,400 or so of the most commonly asked and interesting questions and answers them. It keeps all levels of scientists, including dad, from answering a question with, “Because.”

The Handy Sports Answer Book
Kevin Hillstrom, Laurie Hillstrom and Roger Matuz

More than 1,000 questions are answered in The Handy Sports Answer Book, with chapters on football, baseball, hockey, basketball, the Olympics, soccer, golf, auto racing, horse racing, tennis, boxing, extreme sports, and volleyball, plus a token question on judo and two on fencing. Handy Sports is a sports fan’s dream—not a big or important dream, but a dream nonetheless—for an affordable general sports reference covering origins, history, personalities, rules, techniques, records, and great moments of America’s favorite sports. Many of the questions were blind tested in pubs during nights of enthusiastic brainstorming. We guarantee topicality under the same circumstances.

What makes a curveball curve? What was the longest basketball winning streak of all time? What is the oldest surviving golf hole in the United States? What Supreme Court justice once won the NFL rushing title? During which World Cup final did Pele lose his shorts? Who are the tallest and smallest players in NBA history? Who had the largest appetite? How big is the Stanley Cup and how much champagne does it hold? How many horses have won the Triple Crown? Did ancient Chinese shuttlecock kicking lead directly to badminton, or were there other influences?
The Handy Supreme Court Answer Book
David L. Hudson

"An accessible history in Q&A format, replete with trivia." — ABA Journal

"For a lay audience of inquisitive people, David Hudson Jr.'s Handy Supreme Court Answer Book is remarkably comprehensive and fascinating. Where else could you find out the identity of the tallest justice on the high court?" — Legal Times

"For students, teachers, lawyers, and history buffs, this reference provides answers to many questions about the Supreme Court from its origins in 1789 to the present." — Reference & Research Book News

From the origins of the court to modern practical matters—including the federal judiciary system, the Supreme Court's session schedule, and the argument, decision, and appeal process—this resource provides detailed answers on all aspects of the Supreme Court.


The Handy Weather Answer Book, 2nd Edition
Kevin Hile

"Well written at a level that is enjoyable to everyone. I highly recommend this book to any lay reader, weather watcher or atmospheric professional." — The Weather Doctor

"Designed to stimulate further reading . . . Readers from the junior high level and up will find this book enjoyable." — The Science Teacher

Fully updated with the latest advances in meteorology as well as an additional section on climate change, this comprehensive reference addresses all aspects of weather in an accessible question-and-answer format.

All the basic elements of weather are discussed, as are all types of weather phenomena and the science of forecasting. In addition, the relationships between weather and oceanography, geology, and space science are expertly covered.

Included are more than 1,000 questions and answers, such as "Has a hurricane ever struck southern California?" "Could our oceans have originated in space?" and "What is bioclimatology?"

This resource is an ideal reference for students, teachers, and amateur meteorologists.
Black Firsts, 2nd Edition
4,000 Ground-Breaking and Pioneering Events
Jessie Carney Smith

“This authoritative work, with its brief biographies of many accomplished and famous African-Americans, is one that writers, researchers, and libraries will want to keep close at hand for its valuable information.” – Richmond Times-Dispatch

“This is a must-have reference.” – St. Paul Pioneer Press

“. . . comprehensively catalogs the achievements of everybody from Hank Aaron to Bruce Yulile. . . .” – Syracuse Post-Standard

Readers will revel in the stories of barrier-breaking pioneers in all fields—arts, entertainment, business, civil rights, education, government, inventing, journalism, religion, science, sports, and more. And they will rejoice in their triumphs. With hundreds of illustrations and a daily calendar of firsts, Black Firsts is the culmination of many hours of work, courage, and perseverance, the exact qualities represented within. Jessie Carney Smith, William and Camille Cosby Professor of the Humanities at Fisk University, gives us stories of a people overcoming adversity to emerge triumphant.

Black Heroes
Jessie Carney Smith

“Brimming with information and more than 200 photographs, Black Heroes will intrigue and inspire all those who seek to know more about our nation's history.” – Atlanta Metro

“. . . a classic guide.” – Oklahoma City Oklahoman

Black Heroes is a who’s who of cultural importance to all Americans. In recognition and celebration of African American achievement over the past 100 years, this landmark book details the lives of 150 individuals who have made a profound impact on our culture—from W. E. B. Du Bois to Colin Powell, from Rosa Parks to Maya Angelou, from Romare Bearden to Josephine Baker. Distinguished author and scholar Jessie Carney Smith has created another classic guide to extraordinary individuals sure to please readers of any age.

Freedom Facts and Firsts
400 Years of the African American Civil Rights Experience
Jessie Carney Smith and Linda T. Wynn

“Written in a vivid and accessible style, this encyclopedia is highly recommended” – Library Journal

“An amazing compilation of facts and stories about the lives and times of African Americans in the past four centuries.” – Midwest Book Review

“A valuable encyclopedic work covering the Black experience in the United States from 1619, when Africans were brought to Jamestown, Va., as "involuntary laborers," through the Civil Rights Movement and to the ascendancy of Barack Obama, the country’s first African-American president.” – Newark (NJ) Star Ledger

“An important addition to Black History Month booklists. From the early abolitionists to the presidential nomination of Barack Obama, the authors have gathered easy-to-read articles on the essential people, places, and events of the black struggle for freedom.” – School Library Journal

Freedom Facts and Firsts brings over 400 pioneering people and events to life. Martin Luther King, Jr., Romare Bearden, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, and Harry Belafonte all have a place in Freedom Facts and Firsts, but so too do ordinary educators, teachers, housewives, and journalists who helped change society’s views on human rights.
Encyclopedia of Christmas
Tanya Gulevich

“Christmas is a holiday with a tremendously rich tradition. But you’d have to be a Santa Claus brainiac to be familiar with all the history, myths, legends, customs and religious observances of the season. It’s nice to see someone has gotten around to compiling a handy guide to Christmastime arcana. The book dutifully and reverently addresses all the religious and ethnic variations attached to the year-end holiday. One thing is for certain: After reading this hefty Christmas dissertation, you’ll be one smart elf.” – Arizona Republic

“Outstanding Reference Source” – American Library Association

“This wonderful book could be a trivia board game. . . . Dozens of ethnic and religious customs and rituals are included.” – Asbury Park Press

“. . . this book is terrific fun, a well-organized and thorough reference and a good addition to any library. . . . great family fun can be had (and a little knowledge added) with this book.” – Winston-Salem Journal

The Encyclopedia of Christmas provides readers of all ages with a convenient, easy-to-use source of information on virtually every aspect of this sprawling celebration. From Advent to Zagmug, an ancient Sumerian festival of annual renewal, and with entries on related days and celebrations (such as the Annunciation, Candlemas, and Epiphany), the Encyclopedia has Christmas covered.

Metaphors Dictionary
Edited by Elyse Sommer


“The most comprehensive work of its kind. A valuable addition to reference works on words.” – Booklist

Metaphors Dictionary is an expansive collection of 6,500 colorful classic and contemporary comparative phrases (with full annotations and a complete bibliography of sources). Metaphors Dictionary revisits most of the great and respected names in the annals of cultural literacy while dipping into current literature and media sources. And now available for the first time in hard cover, it’s bound for heavy duty at a price that’s hard to beat.

Power Quotes
Edited by Daniel B. Baker

“Easy to use and fun to read.” – Rocky Mountain News

In this easy-to-use and fun-to-read collection of more than 4,000 quotes, politicians and philosophers, poets and priests, CEOs and comedians all share their views on leadership and liberty, treason and triumph, sacrifice and scandal, risk and rebellion, weakness and war, and other affaires politiques. With Power Quotes, readers can learn what Plato and Aristotle had to say about democracy, and find Mark Twain musing on any number of topics, including: “Its name is Public Opinion. It is held in reverence. It settles everything. Some think it is the voice of God.” Selected with impeccable judgment by quote master Daniel Baker, the quotes are organized under 50 themes such as ethics, monarchy, politics, public opinion, taxes, and war and peace.
American Murder
Criminals, Crimes and the Media
Mike Mayo

“There are many true-crime compilations from which to choose, but a stronger focus on movies and how they have altered the legends may make this [book] worth purchasing. It’s likely to be a hit.” — Library Journal

“Mayo’s breezy and often-irreverent style sheds some fascinating light on events about which we think we know, and subjects ranging from outlaws and mobsters to serial killers. Despite its grim subject matter, it’s a fun read.” — The Roanoke Times

“Written in an informal style . . . this encyclopedia offers a rogue’s gallery of famous U.S. killings, killers, and other scoundrels.” — Reference & Research Book News

“American Murder: Criminals, Crime, and the Media is an encyclopedic look at America’s love affair in the media with lawbreakers. There is much to praise. Overall, American Murder is an excellent resource, and is recommended.” – American Reference Books

Investigating the way Hollywood scoops up notorious criminals and turns them into legends, this entertaining who’s-who guide provides thumbnail sketches of such killers as Ma Barker, Black Beard, Al Capone, John Wesley Hardin, and Charles Starkweather.

The Superhero Book
The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Comic-Book Icons and Hollywood Heroes
Gina Misiroglu with David A. Roach

“Here’s an ‘ultimate’ encyclopedia that lives up to its billing.” – Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

“. . . excellent compendium of comic book superheroes.” – Choice


“This colossal encyclopedia of all things superhero could not have come at a better time. With a slew of comic-book movies each year, kids are more interested than ever in anything to do with these heroes. . . . It is a must-buy for comic readers interested in knowing the early roots and conceptions of comic-book heroes.” – School Library Journal

The Superhero Book is the ultimate A-to-Z compendium of everyone’s favorite overachievers in the pitched battle between good and evil. With 300 entries examining more than 1,000 high-powered icons and their place in the popular firmament, The Superhero Book covers the best-loved and most historically significant superheroes—mainstream and counterculture, famous and forgotten, best and worst.
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