



Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th-Century America (Five Volume Set)

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6 Up-Looking for information on the Ziegfeld Follies, where Raggedy Ann dolls came from, or the history of the Boy Scouts? This enjoyable and informative set is perfect for answering these questions and others. It's two decades per volume of Cracker Jacks, Chia pets, Andy Hardy movies, LPs, PCs, and Curious George. The signed articles are written in an accessible style that sets the trend, fashion, or cultural figure within its proper context, and gives a brief glimpse at the ineffable why. But this is not a ponderous collection. Clearly, the authors have set out to have fun and have succeeded. Each volume is divided into approximately nine chapters that address such topics as: "Commerce," "Film and Theater," and "Food and Drink." Each chapter begins with multipage quick reference boxes that list "What We Said," "What We Read," and so on. The first 100-plus pages in each volume include a set table of contents, an alphabetical list of set entries and another by topic, a guide to using the book, and a time line of the 20th century. Each volume closes with a comprehensive index. Well-chosen, black-and-white photographs of average quality illustrate this resource. For quick reference on a cornucopia of cultural pleasures, this is a great buy for libraries and a fine complement to Carl L. Bankston's *Encyclopedia of Family Life* (Salem, 1999; o.p.). However, libraries that already own *The Guide to United States Popular Culture* (Bowling Green, 2001) probably won't need *Bowling*.

Herman Sutter, Saint Agnes Academy, Houston, TX

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From Library Journal

Have you ever wondered how the TV dinner was created? Left with tons of turkey after a slow Thanksgiving season, the Swanson Company combined the modern appeal of refrigeration and television--two of the 1940s' most important inventions--and the aluminum-tray dinner was born. As this fascinating reference shows repeatedly, such fixtures of modern popular culture have had an enormous impact on our everyday lives. The Pendergasts, who also edited the higher-level and more expansive *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*, track trends in American popular culture through 750 entries arranged chronologically by decade over five volumes. Within decades, entries are divided into nine major areas: "Commerce," "Fashion," "Film and Theater," "Food and Drink," "Music," "Print Culture," "Sports and Games," "Television and Radio," and "The Way We Lived." Ranging from "A-Team" to "Yuppies," the topics within these areas are generally covered in a one-page entry that ends with a helpful "For More Information" section. Also included are 300 black-and-white photos, a useful table of contents, and an index. History lessons have never been so much fun. Informative, entertaining, and clearly presented, this book is recommended for middle school, high school, and public libraries.

Bobbie Wrinkle, McCracken Cty. P.L., Paducah, KY

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From [Booklist](#)

It is commonplace for students studying a pivotal historical issue--war, stock market crash, death of a president--to research its effect on American mores. A good place to begin is this ambitious set, a testimonial to "what a difference a century may make." From Betty Boop to anime; the cocktail hour to ecstasy; flappers to the Goth culture; Sears, Roebuck catalog to Home Shopping Network; and *The \$64,000 Question* to *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* these volumes--packed with a myriad of provocative personalities, events, and underlying trends--make a fascinating read for the student researcher and the armchair historian alike.

The first level of arrangement is chronological, with each volume covering two decades. For each decade, A-Z entries are sorted into nine categories: "Commerce," "Fashion," "Film and Theater," "Food and Drink," "Music," "Print Culture," "Sports and Games," "TV and Radio," and "The Way We Lived." The foremost fads and styles emblematic of this century's culture are described and analyzed in more than 750 signed entries that vary in length from 150 to 1,000 words, with 500 words being the average. Special features make locating information almost effortless. Each volume, containing an index and a cumulative table of contents, has additional listings of all entries by alphabetical order and by the nine topical categories. A time line highlights key historic and cultural events. Introductory overviews of each decade and topical category provide more information. "At a Glance," a box offering examples of "What We Said," "What We Read," "What We Watched," "What We Listened To," and "Who We Knew," reveals how life was celebrated during that period. Cross-referencing, an awkward denoting of decade, topical category, *and* volume number (but not page number) that chops up the text, is used to redirect, but it is doubtful that a teen researcher would take the time to follow these leads. Sidebars might have been more helpful. Archival photographs, posters, and other black-and-white prints earn a mere glance. No color photographs are included. Bibliographies of additional sources-- including Web sites--conclude all entries, offering an opportunity for more in-depth investigating in why historical events matter.

Any good school library media specialist can see the advantage of purchasing this clear, concise set because it has the potential for easy integration into curriculum planning with any school subject area. It is geared for middle-school and high-school users; public libraries with strong usage by teens should consider purchasing it as well. *RBB*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angela Dickens:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or facts even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which one you should start with. This Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th-Century America (Five Volume Set) is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Irma Patterson:

This Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th-Century America (Five Volume Set) is great guide for you because the content that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This book reveal it data accurately using great organize word or we can point out no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th-Century America (Five Volume Set) in your hand like having the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world in ten or fifteen second right but this e-book already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt that?

Ollie Brooks:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended for your requirements is Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th-Century America (Five Volume Set) this book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some investigation when he makes this book. That's why this book ideal all of you.

Rachel Daniels:

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