



Encyclopedia of Fairies in World Folklore and Mythology

By Theresa Bane

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Fairies have been revered and feared, sometimes simultaneously, throughout recorded history. This encyclopedia of concise entries, from the A-senee-ki-waku of northeastern North America to the Zips of Central America and Mexico, includes more than 2,500 individual beings and species of fairy and nature spirits from a wide range of mythologies and religions from all over the globe.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—More than 2,500 beings and species of the fairy ilk are described in this comprehensive tome. The entries are organized alphabetically by entry name in bold type. The length of entries varies from a few sentences to several paragraphs. The countries of origin of the creatures covered reflect global diversity, with featured fairies hailing from all over Europe, North America, South America, the Middle East, and Africa. Cross-referencing is inconsistent. For example, one variation of "Knock Ma Fairies" is "Cnoc Ma Fairies." The latter does not have a separate entry in the "Cs" so readers have to know to look in the "Ks." Also, one variation of "Knockers" is "Black Dwarfs," and the entry for the first describes something different from the entry for the latter. The writing is straightforward, but geared toward readers who have a solid understanding of world legends: "Born one of the 3,000 daughters of the Titans, Oceanus and Tethys, Hesione was one of the named OCEANIDS and the wife of the Titan Prometheus in Greek Mythology." Extensive source notes and citations boost the appeal of the title for academicians. There is no pronunciation guidance, which is problematic with so many names from different cultures: Nuada Airgetlam, Tomtegubbe, Yunw Tsunsdi, for example. Only for those with intense interest in fairy lore.—Jennifer Prince, Buncombe County Public Libraries, NCα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journal. LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

This meticulously researched volume catalogs more than 2,000 fairies, or "fay," in brief A–Z entries. Fairies and nature spirits from around the world, including those in traditional and regional fairy stories, are included; fairies that do not have folkloric origins—such as J. M. Barrie's original creation Tinkerbell—are not included. Encyclopedia entries include variations of the fairy name as well as sources for that particular entry. The author also provides an extensive bibliography and a complete index. There are no images in this volume, which seems a shame. This book would be most helpful for academic libraries supporting curriculum in folklore and mythology. --Blaise Dierks

Review

"More than 2,000 individual fairies and species of fairy from around the world and across time, as well as helpful entries on the phenomenon as observed in various geographic areas. Well done. For writers, mythologists, and fairy tale lovers and scholars in high school, public, and academic libraries." --Library Journal

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