

Sources

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Tammy J. Eschedor Voelker, Editor

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The A–Z of Death and Dying: Social, Medical, and Cultural Aspects. Ed. by Michael Brennan. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 442 p. acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-4408-0343-7). E-book available (978-1-4408-0344-4), call for pricing.

The A–Z of Death and Dying: Social, Medical, and Cultural Aspects fills a gap in thanatology encyclopedias since 2009's *Encyclopedia of Death and the Human Experience* (SAGE) and *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Death and Dying* (Macmillan Reference, 2003).

The A–Z of Death and Dying: Social, Medical, and Cultural Aspects focuses on topics related to social, medical, and cultural aspects of the study of death, as the title implies. Articles are varied and include topics such as cults, domestic violence, embalming, terrorism, Alzheimer's disease, art and literature, medicalization, palliative care, religion, sex and death, superstitions, and zombies. There are 189 encyclopedic articles, which are arranged alphabetically in one volume. The work includes a table of contents and an index. Article lengths range from half pages to three pages but average about one page. Each article includes related article suggestions, as well as selections for further reading. Some photos are included.

Each article in *The A–Z of Death and Dying: Social, Medical, and Cultural Aspects* is well written, making many topics that would otherwise be complex very accessible for the reader. The articles are very informative and unbiased. The breadth of topics covered will appeal to those interested in multidisciplinary fields as well as the particular study of death, and the wide array of topics covered might also lend to serendipitous discovery for the reader.

Since *The A–Z of Death and Dying* is only a one-volume work, space seems limited and some topics that could have more information provided seem to be cut a little short.

The A–Z of Death and Dying: Social, Medical, and Cultural Aspects is intended for high school and low-level undergraduates, and I recommend it without reservation.—Abigail Creitz, Technical Services Librarian, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana

Blacks in Blackface: A Sourcebook on Early Black Musical Shows. 2nd ed. Ed. by Henry T. Sampson. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2014. 2 vols. alkaline \$250 (ISBN: 978-0-8108-8350-5). E-book available (978-8108-8351-2), \$249.99.

Initially published over thirty years ago, this new edition is practically three times the size of the original. Author Sampson has published numerous well-received scholarly texts on African American images and stereotypes in film, cartoons, radio, and television. This work complements his *Ghost Walks: A Chronological History of Blacks in Show Business, 1865–1910* and focuses mainly on the years 1900–1940. Coverage from the original volume has been greatly expanded, including four entirely new chapters. Many more period photographs have been added as well. The focus of the work is on writers, actors, producers, and venues involved in this unique and curious aspect of American entertainment. The