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# Review. Folktales and Fairy Tales: Traditions and Texts from Around the World

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Students in high school and college and general readers will find enough information in each entry to satisfy their curiosity. The geographical arrangement of the second section is particularly helpful for users who want to develop an understanding of the folk heroes and heroines from a specific region. A pronunciation guide would have been helpful for unfamiliar names. Special features include several indexes: an alphabetical index which indicates the continent, an index of heroic types, and the general index. There are a few black and white illustrations, and a few highlighted information text boxes.

Although there are books which provide information on folktales and specific types of tales, there is really nothing in print at this price that has the access points of this work. Comparing this current edition to the previous *Encyclopedia of Folk Heroes* (ABC-CLIO 2001) it appears that some articles like the one on John Chapman have been reprinted, although the entry's further reading list has been updated. What is different is the arrangement and the attempt to include more heroines in this edition. The geographical arrangement of the second section is helpful. If you need a quick, ready reference answer for a specific hero, you might try [www.pantheon.org/areas/heroes/articles.html](http://www.pantheon.org/areas/heroes/articles.html) for *Encyclopedia Mythica*.—Dona J. Helmer, Librarian, Anchorage School District, College Gate Library

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***Folktales and Fairy Tales: Traditions and Texts from Around the World.*** Edited by Anne E. Duggan, Donald Haase, and Helen Callow. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 4 vols. Acid free \$415.00 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-253-3). Ebook available (978-1-61069-254-0), call for pricing.

Named a Choice "Outstanding Title" in 2008, *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Folktales and Fairy Tales* has been expanded by the current editors (Anne E. Duggan, Donald Haase, and Helen Callow, Wayne State University) for this equally outstanding second edition. The present work includes approximately one hundred additional entries in volumes 1–3, but the real value of this new edition is a fourth anthology volume that brings together historical overviews and analyses of the folktale and fairy-tale genres from a global perspective.

The anthology complements the entries in the other volumes by providing full-text samplings of important short stories and excerpts of longer tales to give readers the necessary context for comprehending the tradition in which the story falls. For example, the selection of tales in the "Hags, Ogresses, and Fairies" section illuminates the depiction of powerful female characters and their often complex role in the fairy and folk tale tradition, whether for good or for evil. The influence of folk and fairy tales in popular culture is also well covered. The entries are alphabetically arranged with bolded headings covering genres, motifs, characters, national traditions, authors, and a range of other topics. All are written by an international team of subject specialists. An extensive bibliography in volume 4

provides an appropriate array of resources for both scholars and nonspecialist users pursuing further research in this area. The sparse selection of illustrations is somewhat disappointing, but in no way mars the overall richness of the collection. Its breadth, scope, and multicultural perspective make *Folktales and Fairy Tales: Traditions and Texts from Around the World* a leading contender for the definitive reference work in the discipline. Recommended for academic and public libraries.—Robin Imhof, Humanities Librarian, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

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***The Gilded Age and Progressive Era: A Historical Exploration of Literature.*** By Wendy Martin and Cecelia Tichi. Historical Explorations of Literature. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. Acid free \$61.00 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-9763-7).

One of the latest volumes in ABC-CLIO/Greenwood's "Historical Explorations of Literature" series, *The Gilded Age and Progressive Era* is a useful and interesting introduction to framing key literary works of this time period in their historical context. Each volume in the series presents a discussion of four or five representative works of a historical era, such as the Harlem Renaissance, the Chicano Movement, the Jazz Age, and the Civil War Era. Each era is accompanied by a historical overview, synopsis and historical context for each work, primary source document excerpts, and extensive bibliographies for further reading.

This series is similar in intent to the "Literature in Context" series from Cambridge University Press, but while the latter's volumes focus on placing an individual author within a social, intellectual, and historical framework, "Historical Explorations of Literature" chooses to concentrate on four or five representative works of the time period, demonstrating how each illustrates a key contemporary concern or trend. For example, Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* illustrates the era's rise of industrial technology and social inequality. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" is explored in the context of women's health and equality issues.

With its emphasis on the integration of literature and social studies curricular standards, *The Gilded Age and Progressive Era* is perhaps most useful to high school teachers and early undergraduate literature instructors. The way the material is presented through "historical explorations" of various topics lends itself well to the formation of lesson plans. Although the reader might wish for the inclusion of more visual material, such as contemporary paintings and photographs, the primary source excerpts offer a depth of context missing from other such handbooks. Librarians should also find this well-researched book, along with others in the series, a valuable source of ideas for collection development, displays, and information literacy projects.—Jennifer A. Bartlett, Head of Reference Services, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky