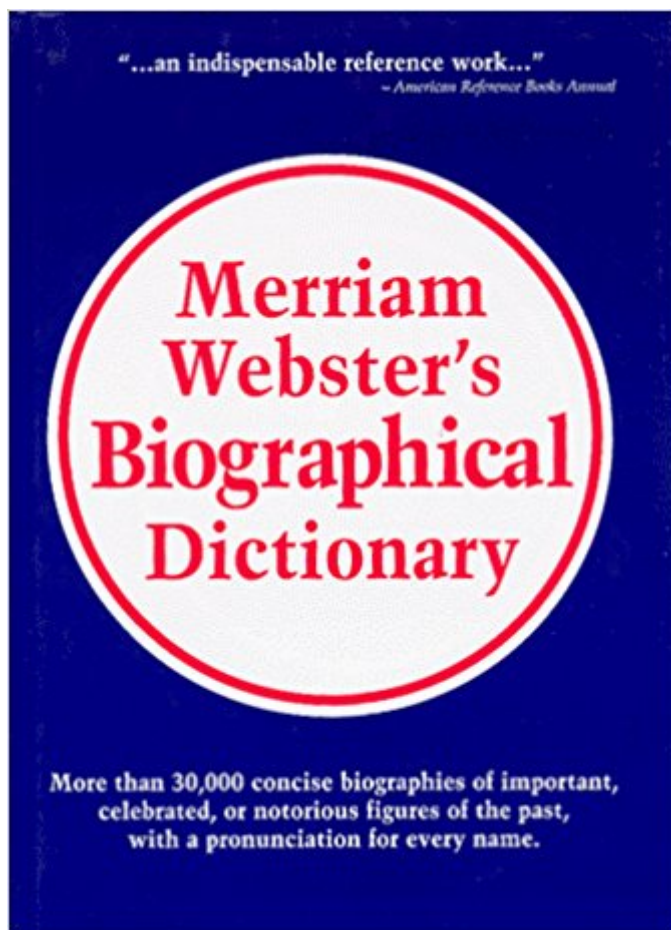


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Merriam-Webster's Biographical Dictionary



Synopsis

Newly revised and updated, Merriam-Webster's Biographical Dictionary provides essential information about important people from throughout history and around the world. This comprehensive reference is one of the most extensive collections of biographies ever presented in a single volume--from Michelangelo to Richard Nixon, Liang Ch'i-ch'ao to Theidore Geisel.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Weighing in at a hefty 1,170 pages, this addictive reference volume supplies brief lives of more than 30,000 men and women--the famous, the not-so-famous, and the downright obscure. Coverage of the non-English speaking world is particularly comprehensive. And thanks to the helpful pronunciation guidelines, names like Domitius Ahenobarbus and Abu al-Faraj allsbahani will soon roll trippingly from the reader's tongue.

It is so valuable and so reasonably priced that it can be considered essential. -- The Bloomsbury Review
The lives of over 34,000 men and women from around the world are celebrated in a dictionary reference which includes birth information, career highlights and profiles, and over 300 new entries in a revised edition. Highly recommended! -- Midwest Book Review

I buy updated editions of this work occasionally, albeit used ones. They are an excellent resource for basic biographical information about important historical persons, and some who are more obscure. The Merriam Webster's Biographical Dictionary, regardless of which edition, includes

entries from all historical eras, up to persons of interest alive near the time of publication. These entries are worldwide, from ancient to modern, from nearly every conceivable area of interest. I would note, however, that they should be better at including all our Founding Fathers. In doing some research with this and a prior edition, I noticed that all signers of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and even earlier personages who participated in the Stamp Act Congress, were not listed. This seems to me to be a major oversight on the part of the editors, especially since this is a resource predominantly for Americans. That having been said, some of the entries for the Founders gave much greater detail than anticipated, including family and other relationships I might not have otherwise realized. Presumably historical figures for other areas of interest fare similarly. Your particular area of interest might not be covered thoroughly, or as thoroughly as you might like or need, such as with the Founders. Yet, you may be surprised at additional information that is useful that you may not have expected for persons of particular interest to you. But I can't really speak to such other areas of interest, for I have used this biographical dictionary in a comprehensive way only for our Founding Generation. This volume is otherwise just a general resource I consult occasionally.

I read quite a bit, mostly non-fiction, and this dictionary is right at my elbow for reference. I lost my previous MWBD somewhere in my travels and was very glad to get this copy in A+ condition and at a ridiculously low price from one of 's sellers -- just one penny and low shipping!

A very useful resource for research or reference. Glad to own it.

I use this title as my leading authority for proper name format in my writing, editing, and indexing work. I am very happy with the price and condition of it.

This covers the most important people in the world over several thousand years! If you're interest in the past, it is an invaluable addition to your library.

I am an editor and need to check names for accuracy and this book is a must. It also gives background information about each person that is very helpful.

it has 10000 fewer entries than my 1972 edition. I expected a new updated version would have more. The service & delivery of it was excellent.

Excellent resource reference at a fair price. There is something very satisfying about looking up a biographical reference in a real book. Classic resource.

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