

# The New York Public Library Book of Popular Americana

*Tad Tuleja*

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**Tad Tuleja : The New York Public Library Book of Popular Americana** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New York Public Library Book of Popular Americana:

Written with authority and wit, here is the ultimate reference to the aspects of American culture than make it so unique. From the serious to the whimsical, more than 4,000 entries provide an entertainingly factual tour of the American spirit--our history and folklore, slang and diversions, heroes and villains.

From Library JournalIn this engaging dictionary, Tuleja (Quirky Quotations, LJ 8/92) has collected and defined nearly 4000 people, events, words, and phrases concerning America's popular culture, from colonization through modern times. He includes literature, folklore, the media, high and low arts, sports, and slang that have become "cultural icons" and entered daily thought and language. Terms familiar to modern readers appear along with lesser-known terms such as "Brother Jonathan" (an early personification of the American people) and "Krazy Kat" (an early popular cartoon character). Despite a small number of minor factual errors appearing in the proofs (such as A.J. Foyt's being a five-time rather than a four-time Indianapolis 500 winner), the overall content is quite good, with lively and readable definitions. This book, which nicely complements Jan and Michael Stern's Encyclopedia of Popular Culture (LJ 10/15/92) and The Handbook of American Popular Culture (LJ 10/1/89), should be useful both as a reference tool and

for browsing by scholars and interested general readers. Recommended for all types of libraries. Stephen L. Hupp,  
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