

Famous First Facts

REVIEWS



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"Famous First Facts, now in its seventh edition, was first published by editor Joseph Kane for H.W. Wilson in 1933. The sixth edition appeared in 2006 (see ARBA 2008, entry 26). The current edition has almost 8,000 entries, more than 100 illustrations, 4 indexes, and 16 chapters covering firsts in several arenas—scientific, medical, technological, political, legal, social, and financial from the colonial period to the present. Entries can be as short as a sentence, but most are several sentences in length.

The book begins with a preface, notes on how to use the book, and "Expanded Contents." Chapters are organized into alphabetized subsections; "firsts" in these subsections are presented in chronological order. The chapters are as follows: Arts and Entertainment, Business and Industry, Daily Life, Education, Engineering, Media and Communications, Medicine and Health, Military and War, Nature and Environment, Population and Settlement, Religion, Science and Technology, Society, Sports and Recreation, and Transportation. Four indexes—subject, index by years, index to personal names, and a geographical index—facilitate searches.

This book of first facts would be a welcome addition to a public or school library."

-ARBA

*"Famous First Facts was originally compiled in 1933 by the remarkable researcher Joseph Nathan Kane, and this latest print edition contains almost 500 more entries than the previous, 2006 edition. Organized into 16 topical chapters, the work contains four outstanding indexes (subject, year, personal names, and geography) with descriptively succinct entries, enabling quick access to the text. A sturdy binding, black-and-white illustrations, and an easy-to-read typeface enhance the work. **This is a venerable and essential reference source-libraries owning the previous edition will want to update.**"*

-Booklist



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