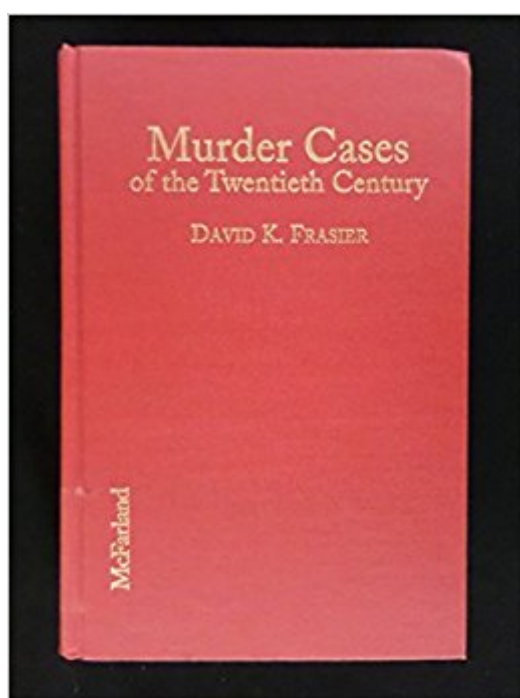


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Murder Cases Of The Twentieth Century: Biographies And Bibliographies Of 280 Convicted Or Accused Killers



Synopsis

From Jack Henry Abbott, who stabbed a waiter through the heart for not allowing him to use the toilet, to the Zodiac, an unknown California serial killer who may have murdered as many as 37 people, this reference work details 280 of the most famous murder cases of the twentieth century. Each entry contains, when applicable, birth and death dates, aliases, occupation, location of the murders, weapons used, number of victims, and the time period when the killings occurred. Films, plays, television shows, videos and audio programs based on or inspired by the case are then cited, followed by a brief overview of the murder case and a bibliography of English-language works related to it.

Book Information

Library Binding: 570 pages

Publisher: McFarland & Company (September 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786401842

ISBN-13: 978-0786401840

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 6.3 x 1.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #3,516,282 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Bibliographies & Indexes > Politics
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Customer Reviews

Frasier, a reference librarian at Indiana University, has created a near-perfect reference source on murder. From this century (up to 1992), he has taken 280 of the most famous serial killers (both convicted and accused) and presented them in a thorough yet nonlurid fashion. Profiled here are both American and foreign murderers, many from earlier years who may not be familiar to readers. Each entry, which includes birth and death dates, aliases, location of the murders, weapons used, and number of victims, is prefaced with a list of movies or plays, if any, about the case and followed by an annotated (and opinionated) bibliography, so that a reader can cut through the mass of knockoffs and newspaper rehashes to good books about the case. An appendix lists cases by

classification (e.g., "parricide"); an author and title index provides entry to the bibliographies; and a general index includes the movie titles (e.g., a reader looking for the case featured in the movie *Killing in a Small Town* is led directly to that of Candace Montgomery). Useful, entertaining, extremely well written, and meticulously researched and formatted, this book is essential for all true-crime and general reference collections. ?Sally G. Waters, Stetson Law Lib., St. Petersburg, Fla. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Frasier's carefully researched and objectively written case reports ought to be sources of choice" --
Rettig on Reference

With a book of this scope, it's a good idea to judge it on the basis of cases that one knows well. Given that guideline, I checked out the notorious Hall-Mills case of 1922, trial 1926--an early "crime of the century," with nearly 100 front-page articles in the *New York Times* in those two years. Whoops! It's not in Frasier's book. Next I tried the Lindbergh case. Frasier turns out to be a committed Hauptmann-didn't-do-it fan, despite the mountain of evidence against the guy. He's willing to accept almost any silly alternative theory of the crime while rejecting Jim Fisher's reasoned but unexciting conclusion that the investigators got it basically right. This is a typical McFarland book, in my jaundiced opinion, having been stung by purchasing several of them. It's a fine book idea, a dogged labor of love, but a reference source that leaves out some blindingly obvious entries and often gets amusingly wrong the names, dates, and easily checked facts in the entries it does include.

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