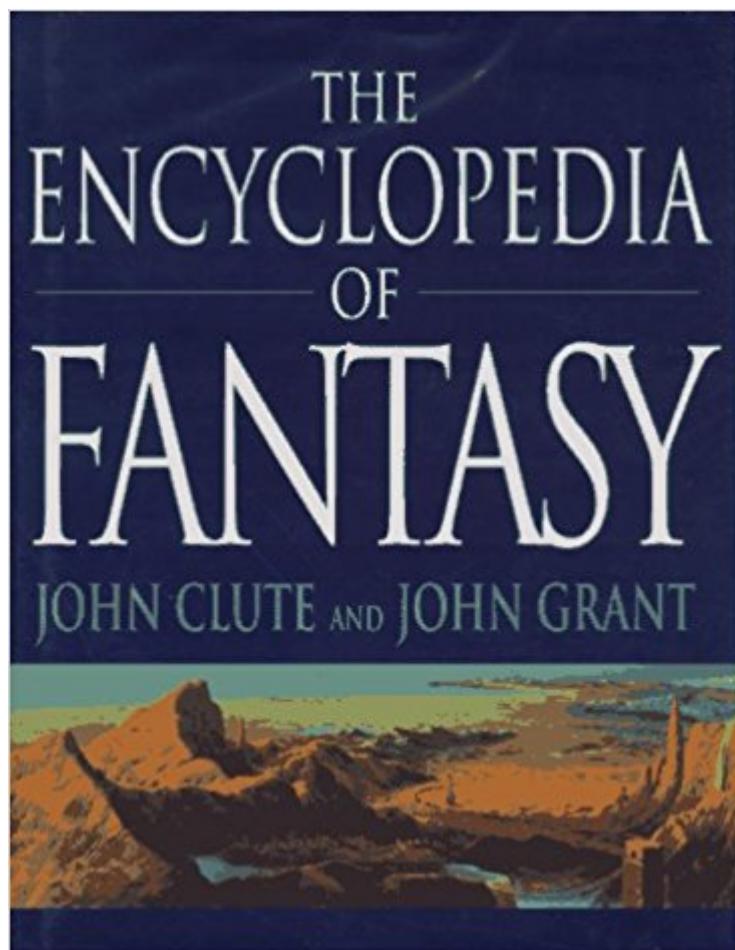


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# The Encyclopedia Of Fantasy



## Synopsis

This huge volume is the first comprehensive encyclopedia of the fantasy field, offering an exciting new analysis of this highly diverse and hugely popular sphere of literature, from precursors such as Shakespeare and Dante, through Lewis Carroll, George MacDonald and L. Frank Baum to J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and their modern successors, like Ursula K. Le Guin, Peter S. Beagle, Stephen R. Donaldson and Jostein Gaarder. With over 4,000 entries and over 1 million words, it covers every aspect of fantasy - in literature, films, television, opera, art and comics.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 1100 pages

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan; 1997 edition (May 13, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312158971

ISBN-13: 978-0312158972

Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 3.1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #359,383 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Science Fiction & Fantasy #54 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales, Legends & Mythology #58 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Encyclopedias

## Customer Reviews

This masterful follow-up to the 1993 Encyclopedia of Science Fiction is an essential purchase for anyone who's serious about fantasy. Those who are serious about horror will also find it an excellent reference. The works of prolific and confusing authors such as Michael Moorcock, as well as authors such as J. R. R. Tolkien who have many posthumously published fragments, are explained with admirable clarity. Especially fascinating are the numerous terms for motifs and themes, constituting what the editors call a map of the many "fuzzy sets" in the universe of fantasy fiction--terms such as "crosshatch," "polder," and "water margin." There are many entries on horror movies and the better-known horror writers (only writers who write no fantasy, such as Richard Laymon, are excluded). You'll also find carefully written definitions of horror, dark fantasy, supernatural fiction, gothic fiction, psychological thrillers, and weird fiction. Locus calls The Encyclopedia of Fantasy "massive and welcome," and writes, "This will be the standard reference

for years to come."

Grade 10 Up. A comprehensive resource about fantasy literature and media. Similar in format to The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (St. Martin's, 1993), it presents a thorough catalog of authors, awards, movies, TV shows, fantastic themes, historical individuals, and articles on the literature of various nations. There are entries on Howard the Duck and Homer, Santa Claus and Silverberg, Garcia Marquez and Germany. Articles are concise, detailed, and clearly written, although the text is sometimes dry. The book's main value is its cross-referencing. An entry about an author highlights themes covered elsewhere in bold face, and vice versa. For example, the definition of Steam Punk as a fantasy sub-genre refers to Alternative Worlds and to the author Tim Powers. By leading browsers from their favorite writer's works to articles about specific thematic elements and then to other authors who write along similar themes, The Encyclopedia serves as an efficient reader's guide to the genre. Unfortunately, specific mythological elements are not as thoroughly covered. Although there are articles on unicorns and dragons in fantastic literature, there is no entry covering griffins. Still, this is a useful reference book. Lawrence Kapture, New York Public Library Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

If you were looking for a book on the history of elves and wizards or how to write great stories with them, this would not be what you would be after. It is still worth its weight; however, as it lists a history of movies and books with titles and the explanations of their stories.

Wide ranging look at a specific type of read for fans and researchers of the genre- perfect if you're in the field or interested in finding some new things to read.

This is a non-fiction reference book the companion volume to The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction by Klute and Peter Nichols. I have not read the whole book yet (it is immense), but the items I have look up are pretty good.

I am so excited to have this book! It's definitely everything I wanted it to be and so much more.

OK

First off, I'd like to tell you a bit about what you WON'T find in this hefty volume filled with small print:

you won't find pictures - no photos, no illustrations, no book covers, no maps. You won't find entries on fantasy characters - no Bilbo, no Thomas Covenant - and only a few of the most common kinds of fantastic creatures (like dragons). You won't find endless pages of geeky details about Tolkien; you won't find Harry Potter at all (the books had only begun to be published when this encyclopedia was last updated). So be aware of what this is NOT before you make an effort to get it - several other reviewers apparently expected something quite different. What you WILL get though is the best reference work covering the major authors, books, films, countries with fantasy writing traditions, comics, magazines, and themes and concepts in the field. The authors have said that it will not be updated in print again -- it will be online only. That's a shame for paper-lovers like me; I cannot tell you how many hours I have spent in the company of this, paging back and forth between entries. Sure, clicking through a website is easier in some ways, but thus far that hasn't materialized.

Virtually every writer and novel that I've ever heard of that could be considered part of the genre is in here; the authors seem to have missed nothing. People like Tolkien, Peake, Dunsany not surprisingly receive several page entries apiece, but it's rare to find any figure at all - at least any writing in English, I think the coverage outside of the language is a bit sparser - who doesn't get a fairly thorough bibliographic listing at the least. You can probably get both this and its science fiction companion quite cheap now, and I would highly recommend them if you have any interest in the byways of the fields. One thing I really like is that neither book discriminates against the more "literary" figures (Angela Carter, Salman Rushdie, etc) who sometimes are given short shrift in genre-geek references. The writing is generally serious, and I like the fact that "objectivity" isn't always the highest goal; no matter how popular a book or author may be, Clute et al are not afraid to cut them down to size, though never maliciously. And on the other hand they always seem to find something nice to say about even more marginal figures in the field (e.g., Dennis McKiernan). They are in short enthusiastic supporters of the genre as a whole, and I can't think of many writers who have done half as well at grasping the enormity of this gigantic and wonderful field of literature.

The Encyclopedia of Fantasy - John Clute and John Grant [587 2014-02-01] Published in 1996 this 1079 page book is currently the best source for information on item concerning fantasy. Yes, the emphasis is on books and authors but it is the wide range of related topics that makes this a most valuable and informative resource. It certainly would be grand if there was a new, updated edition but until that happens this book is still, in my estimation, a worthy addition your library.

To begin, John Clute and company's The Encyclopedia of Fantasy is an essential book for anyone

who is serious about fantasy. Having said that, much of this review is going to focus on negatives rather than positives. As can be expected with any book this size, mistakes have crept in. Within the first few days, I found several errors, mostly minor. A book attributed to Lynn Abbey which was written by Robert Asprin, a mistaken title for a book by Charles de Lint, that sort of thing. These mistakes, however are minor. Perhaps a bigger problem with the Encyclopedia is the strange inclusion and omission of authors. Neither Sterling Lanier or Steven Frankos are included in the book, however Steve Szylagi, who has written a single fantasy novel has received an entry.

According to Clute, the book does not claim to be as complete as its predecessor, *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* and the editors were forced to make some cuts. It would have been nice if he could have given some hint as to the selection criteria in the front matter. One friend suggested that if an author was included in the first book they would be left out of the second book, but too many authors appear in both books for this rule of thumb to be applied (Charles de Lint, Mervyn Peake, Larry Niven, etc.) A larger percentage of *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy* is given over to thematic entries than *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*. Fantasy, however, has more common themes and prototypes than science fiction does, therefore making these types of entries a larger portion of any survey of the field. Still, the reader has to wonder about entries such as "Pornographic Fantasy Movies" which is so vague ("few researchers are willing to sit through the stuff...") as to be titillating rather than informative. The *Encyclopedia of Fantasy* also repeats one of the faults of *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*. The author entries could contain more biographical data to supplement the bibliographical data already included. I'm not looking for gossip, merely some idea of what helped formulate the authors' writing. Despite these flaws, *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy* is a major and important reference work. Essential to any library. Clute is still in negotiations to issue the *Encyclopedia* on CD-Rom. He says that if a deal goes through, he'll be able to replace author entries which were cut from the print version. The electronic format would be a welcome addition to the printed book.

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