

New Castle. Tracing the motivations of individual men who enlisted in the armed forces, Smith downplays patriotism and suggests myriad factors that influenced decisions about when and whether to join up. Centered on personal and local accounts, Smith's complicated and honest narrative challenges stereotypes of a country unified by war and nationalism.

Readers with an interest in Indiana history will find much to appreciate in *The War Comes to Plum Street*. By treating the history of one town, and the lives of a select sample of fam-

ilies, as important, Smith gives weight to the role that ordinary Americans play in shaping history, and he demonstrates the critical part that oral history can play in recreating this history. Smith's example will hopefully inspire others to investigate the events that transformed towns in Indiana and across America in the first half of the twentieth century.

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### *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*

Edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff

(Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004. Illustrations, maps, business and biographical dictionaries, appendices, index. Pp. xxix, 1117. \$65.00.)

The past two decades have witnessed the appearance of a number of urban encyclopedias, including two (Cleveland and Indianapolis) from the Midwest. Most reviewers have lauded these efforts and have touted *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (1995) as the best of the group. The 2004 appearance of *The Encyclopedia of Chicago* has likely upset this ranking.

This volume is a superb work that fulfills its editors' goal of revealing the Windy City's interdependent sense of place. More than the other urban encyclopedias, this handsome work literally and metaphorically maps the city's geography. It conveys a deep sense of place in multiple entries on

Chicago's neighborhoods and locations and embeds within each entry both a separate history and a connection to the larger metropolis. The result is an integrative history that links the city's vital parts to a civic whole.

Another important integrative feature of the work is the simultaneous creation of an electronic encyclopedia, with an emphasis on links and extensibility. Of course, the encyclopedias created before the Internet contained cross-references—the trait, after all, is common to the genre—but the Chicago editors clearly were thinking of the volume as a digital product as well as a traditional one.

Given this strategy, it is disappointing to learn that the electronic version (<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org>) appears to contain nothing more than the print edition.

The entries, arranged alphabetically, are well-written and informative. The editors' implied claims to the contrary, they follow the types of entries found in other urban encyclopedias: places, people, events, organizations, ethnic groups, religious bodies, and so forth. Topical essays appear throughout the volume (e.g., Air Quality, Home Rule, Mental Health, etc.). Most of the contributors appear to be associated with academic institutions and libraries.

Several features are worth noting. Businesses deemed significant by longevity, number of employees, or industry leadership receive separate treatment in the "Dictionary of Leading Chicago Businesses, 1820-2000" (pp. 909-953). A biographical dictionary (pp. 955-998) provides summary information on 2,000 deceased Chicagoans who are mentioned in the main body of the encyclopedia, although page numbers to these references are not included. Census information for counties, municipalities, and communities, noted at thirty-year intervals, also appears at the end of the volume, as does a list of

the city's mayors and a comprehensive index.

These features notwithstanding, illustrations are the glory of this volume. No urban encyclopedia to date has made better use of cartography. Thumbnail maps accompanying the entries reveal the location of each county, municipality, and neighborhood within the metropolitan area, while large-scale maps show everything from Chicago's global and national connections (pp. 342-343) to the railroad path used by the Great Migration (p. 363) to the city's freight tunnels (p. 834). The maps reinforce the editorial theme of Chicago as an interconnected place. In like manner, the illustrations—especially the four-color Timeline and Year Pages—exceed in quality and quantity anything produced by the other urban encyclopedias.

Great cities deserve great encyclopedias. With the publication of *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*, one of the world's leading cities has a volume worthy of its name.

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