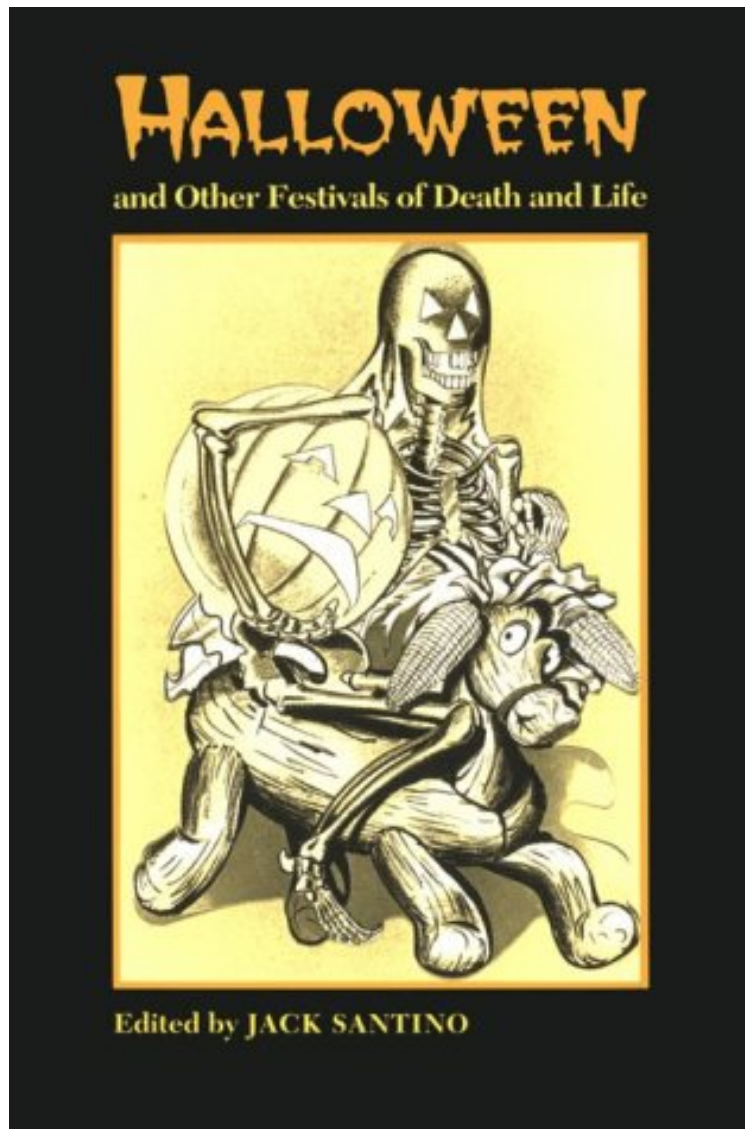


(Read now) Halloween Other Festivals: Death And Life

Halloween Other Festivals: Death And Life

Jack Santino

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Jack Santino : Halloween Other Festivals: Death And Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Halloween Other Festivals: Death And Life:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Halloween Hodgepodge By L. J. Vollmer Halloween and Other Festivals of Death and Life is a scholarly anthology of articles related to Halloween in various ways. The book is divided into three sections: Customs, Communities, and Material Culture. Each article assumes some knowledge, taking an in depth look at topics ranging from the history of Trick-or-Treating to the non-seasonal use of Halloween

imagery in Southern settings. Some articles focus not on Halloween, but on related festivals such as Bonfire Night and the Texan acculturation of the Mexican holiday Day of the Dead. Each article reflects the author's own style making some more readable than others. However, the diversity of approaches and the variety of perspectives makes this a fascinating read. While the introduction attempts to bring these articles together in a coherent fashion, there is very little tying them together besides the direct or indirect relationship to Halloween. The book can be read cover-to-cover or piece-by-piece. I would not recommend this book for those looking for a history of or introduction to Halloween, but rather to those who have some knowledge of the festival and are looking for scholarly commentary. Nonetheless, the casually interested may find some parts quite enjoyable and Halloween lovers will really appreciate the various views offered.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, detailed, and intimate portrayals of U. S. holidays' rituals and human celebrants or miscreants
By M. D. Sharbaugh
I enjoyed all of the collected essays. Small-town, U.S. America's holiday traditions and the celebrations and conflicts attendant are probed.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Halloween and other related festivals
By Mark Eckenrode
I've always had something of a fascination with Halloween, it's an unusual holiday to say the least. There is nothing intrinsically pleasant about death, evil and the supernatural, which this holiday surrounds us with images of. It's the only American holiday where masked strangers can show up uninvited to your home and demand some form of appeasement, usually in the form of candy. What are the origins of this phenomenon and the significance of Halloween's contemporary manifestation? These are the questions this work seeks to answer. I was glad that I took the trouble to read this, I felt that it gave me a much better understanding of this holiday. This book assembles thirteen essays by various scholars and experts in culture, folklore and history, including an introductory essay by Santino. These essays cover such topics as Halloween's origins in ancient pagan harvest rituals such as the Celtic Samhain; its current manifestation in the British Isles and the related festivals that accompany it, such as Guy Fawkes day in England; its popular manifestation in American culture, with its related rituals and myths; other related customs such as the Mexican Day of the Dead and Bonfire Night in Newfoundland; the Greenwich Village Halloween parade; the history of Halloween noisemakers; and Halloween imagery in non-standard settings, such as in graveyard displays and year-round house decorations. The essays cover quite a bit of ground and teaches you much about Halloween's history, and about how it and other related festivals are celebrated. This book casts a wide net; although there is little interconnection between the articles besides the common topic, they provide the reader with a good view of "what's there." The essays don't provide much of a philosophical analysis of this holiday, but it provides a good source of data to base one upon. It appears that Halloween is like a vestigial organ that has taken on new functions. It has some of its roots in ancient pagan harvest rituals, which sought to appease the supernatural forces over which it was believed the fate of men depended. Bad harvests meant death, starvation and misery for countless of our ancestors, so the connotations of Halloween's imagery and its relation to this season aren't difficult to fathom. Most people no longer believe that supernatural forces control nature, but the images of the harvest season and of death and the supernatural survive. Although most of us enjoy a greater separation from the forces of nature than our predecessors, it is nonetheless important to be reminded of the significance of this season. Halloween and other related festivals act as a form of catharsis: we sometimes need to confront our fears in order to deal with them. They turn some of our worst fears - of death, misery and fear of the "unknown and unknowable" - into playthings that we seek to control by taking on their forms.

Why do we celebrate Halloween? No one gets the day off, and unlike all other major holidays it has no religious or governmental affiliation. A survivor of our pre-Christian, agrarian roots, it has become one of the most popular and widely celebrated festivals on the contemporary American calendar. Jack Santino has put together the first collection of essays to examine the evolution of Halloween from its Celtic origins through its adaptation into modern culture. Using a wide variety of perspectives and approaches, the thirteen essayists examine customs, communities, and material culture to reveal how Halloween has manifested itself throughout all aspects of our society to become not just a marginal survivor of a dying tradition but a thriving, contemporary, post-industrial festival. Its steadily increasing popularity, despite overcommercialization and criticism, is attributed to its powerful symbolism that employs both pre-Christian images and concepts from popular culture to appeal to groups of all ages, orientations, and backgrounds. However, the essays in this volume also suggest that there is something ironic and unsettling about the immense popularity of a holiday whose main images are of death, evil, and the grotesque.

Halloween and other Festivals of Death and Life is a unique contribution that questions our concepts of religiosity and spirituality while contributing to our understanding of Halloween as a rich and diverse reflection of our society's past, present, and future identity. The Editor: Jack Santino is an associate professor in the department of popular culture at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.

.com "Halloween is many things to many people; we do not celebrate the day in any one way." So Jack Santino writes in this first ever collection of essays dedicated to the study of Halloween and related festivals. Thirteen folklore and culture scholars examine the evolution of Halloween from its Celtic origins through its adaptation into modern culture. Essays on holiday customs describe harvest and autumnal rituals in Scotland, new Halloween traditions in response to

legends about contaminated candy, the custom of "pranking" (more popular in some areas of the U.S. than trick-or-treating), England's Guy Fawkes Day and a parallel Bonfire Night in Newfoundland, and the development of American trick-or-treating in the years 1940-1990. Also covered are the sociopolitical meanings of carnival celebrations and attempts to control them, the Tex-Mex tradition of el Do de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), and community approaches to Halloween in such diverse locales as the Canadian prairie, rural Vermont, and Greenwich Village in New York City. A final section looks at the history of Halloween noisemakers and unusual imagery (including the decoration of graves) in two Southern settings. In several of the essays, the authors examine the ironic, even disturbing, implications of such a popular holiday being based on images of death, evil, and the grotesque. *Halloween and Other Festivals of Death and Life* is written with a lively balance of scholarship, anecdotes, and enthusiasm, with ample black-and-white illustrations. Whether you're interested in Halloween as a scholar or simply a celebrant, this is the book you need. --Fiona Webster

From Booklist

Scholarly, cultural, and historical essays about Halloween--and related celebrations, such as Guy Fawkes Night--appear in these pages; they were collected by Santino, who cannot resist tucking in his own memories about the holiday. The essayists plumb the holiday's Celtic origins and demonstrate how different the rural traditions are from those in the city and how Newfoundland celebrates Bonfire Night without the British Guy Fawkes figure. Some serious reading that can serve as a prequel to all the festivities. Denise Perry Donavin

About the Author

The Editor: Jack Santino is an associate professor in the department of popular culture at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.