Review of Alcohol in Popular Culture: An Encyclopedia, ed. by Rachel Black

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Valuable for its focus on marginalized and pop-culture aspects of alcohol use and misuse, this encyclopedia looks at popular alcoholic beverages, their history, how they are used in everyday life and during special events, their role in the arts, and how imbibing affects health. The book's scope is limited to the US from as early as the colonial era to the present. The introduction outlines the editor's challenge of balancing "voices and approaches" to the study of alcohol, and steeps readers in the state of "alcohol studies," so to speak. Long entries marry alcohol with art, film, literature, and music and easily ground readers in these interrelationships via overviews. Generally, however, entries provide an overview of the subject and conclude with suggestions for further reading and a selected bibliography. Some 100 entries are featured, with length ranging from as little as a paragraph to several pages. Sidebars expand particulars of a drink. Illustrations accompany narrative entries, such as a historical poster for the Anti-Saloon League in the "Woman's Christian Temperance Union" entry. The interdisciplinary nature of this encyclopedia makes it a reference that may serve many purposes.

**Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and general readers.

**Reviewer:** R. Tolley-Stokes, East Tennessee State University

**Recommendation:** Recommended

**Readership Level:** General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates

**Interdisciplinary Subjects:**

**Subject:** Reference - Social & Behavioral Sciences

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