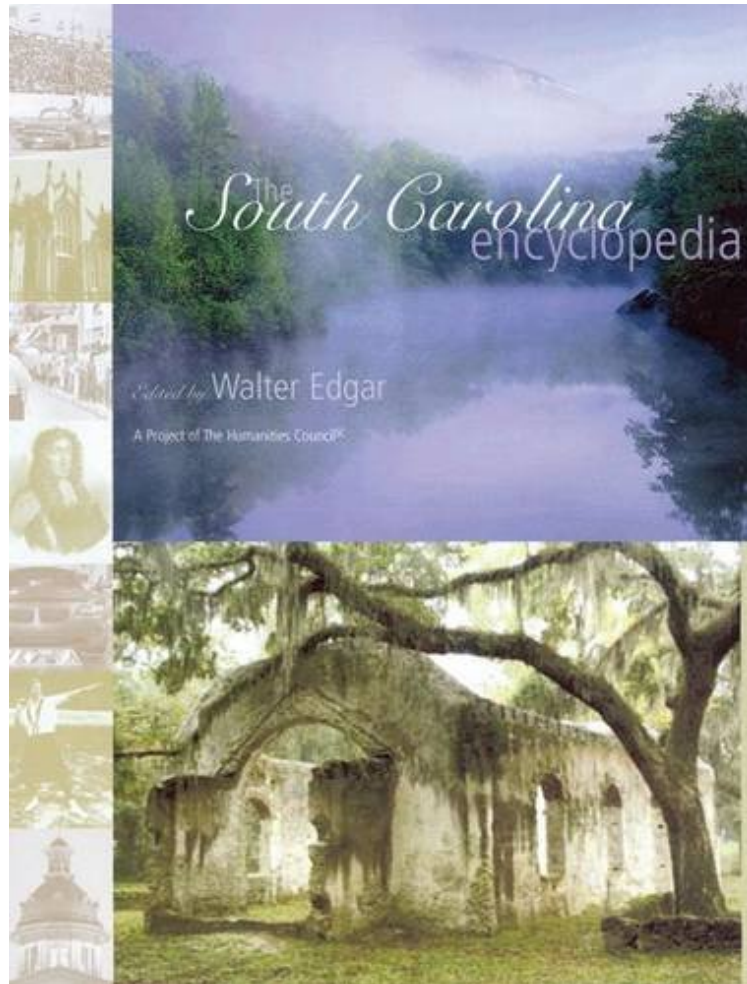


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From Brand: University of South Carolina Press : The South Carolina Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The South Carolina Encyclopedia:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive. Best of the bunch.By Jon L AlbeeThese types of books are becoming popular. You can buy them for quite a few cities, states and regions now: Chicago, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Appalachia, etc... As you might expect, any attempt to cram hundreds of years of history, millions of diverse people and hundreds of places into a thousand pages or so needs to be appreciated for breadth rather than depth. Don't come here looking for an architectural survey of the state, or a penetrating analysis of slavery versus states' rights, or a profound discussion of the differences between German Lutherans and Swiss Calvinists. It's not here. What is here is better than any travel guide, and more efficient than any comprehensive history tome. This is the best one of the lot, I've found. You're not going to be upset by glaring omissions or factual error. It's well done, and

it's an attractive book. Perhaps most important, Dr. Edgar is THE South Carolina authority, with a swift command of this state's rich history, towns, institutions and important people. As a native Southerner, and ever-moving nomad, this book makes me homesick. That's a good sign. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's a great reference book. By Dr. A.R. Smythe. It's a great reference book... I've had my copy for several years. Everything you ever want to know about our great state, our history, our heritage, our ancestors and how their contributions help mold our future. Purchased as a gift for a fellow South Carolinian!!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. fantastic. By Frances P. Foster. It's a great book for any collector of SC this was a great read finding out information about SC that we didn't know before.

The South Carolina Encyclopedia is a comprehensive single-volume reference for just about anything anyone would want to know about the Palmetto State's rich cultures and storied heritage, from prehistory to the present day. Under the editorial direction of distinguished historian Walter Edgar, five hundred ninety-eight contributors have come together to write more than one million words depicting the representative people, places, and things that define South Carolina. The encyclopedia is an authoritative, entertaining compilation of essays on a broad array of topics ranging from war and politics to arts and recreation, from agriculture and industry to popular culture and ethnicity. Among the nearly two thousand entries are such diverse subjects as the Boykin spaniel, John C. Calhoun, Sarah Moore Grimké, Hootie and the Blowfish, Indian mounds, Matthew J. Perry, Rainbow Row, Surfside Beach, and white lightning.

From Booklist. Joining a recent spate of state and regional encyclopedias, this hefty compendium covers South Carolina from prehistoric times to the present. The editor, a history professor and director of the Institute of Southern Studies at the University of South Carolina, identifies the 598 contributors by name only, but he notes that they are a mixture of academics and other scholars, public officials, and interested citizens. Ranging in length from 250 to 2,000 words, the 1,927 well-written entries cover counties, towns, noted South Carolinians (both living and deceased), institutions, organizations, businesses, events, customs, culture, and themes. Reflecting the diversity of the subject matter are such articles as Animals; Dueling; Frogmore stew; Opera houses; Park Seed Company; and White, Vanna. All entries are signed, and most include bibliographical references. Enhancing the text are numerous black-and-white illustrations and a section of stunning color plates. Although coverage of specific subjects is commendable, a number of significant broader topics, such as archaeology, government, literature, music, and politics, have not been accorded overview articles. In addition, no cross-references are provided in either the body of the encyclopedia or the index. Also missing is a thematic list of articles, which might have partially compensated for this lack. Further, the index is insufficiently detailed for a work of this scope. A user researching Baptists in South Carolina will find the article Baptists and several page references under the heading Baptists in the index, but no links to the entry Two Seed in the Spirit Baptists. Similarly, one seeking information on South Carolina pottery will find only two page references under the index heading pottery, and neither guides the user to Catawba pottery or Edgefield pottery. Moreover, there are no index entries for any of the topics mentioned in the first sentence of this paragraph. An index heading for Music, for example, could have led readers to such articles as Beach music, Country music, Gospel music, and Spirituals. Although this encyclopedia includes a wealth of information, accessing that information can be problematic. However, in view of its reasonable price and in spite of its shortcomings, this compendium should be in all high-school, public, and academic libraries in South Carolina. Larger public and academic libraries in other areas of the U.S., particularly those in southern states, should also find it useful. Marie Ellis. Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. From the nationally celebrated to regionally treasured, hundreds of facets of SC life are described in this indispensable reference. - Lowcountry Companion. From the Back Cover "The South Carolina Encyclopedia is indeed an easily searchable treasury of enlightened facts about our Palmetto State. Walter Edgar, George Reeves, Thomas Downey, his successor Aaron Marrs, and their dedicated team of associate editors, research checkers, and the volunteer consulting editor, Tom McLean, and all the others who made this publication possible through years of dedication and hard work, have provided us a grand compendium of facts from which we can gain a better understanding of events and the people who have shaped our state. The publication of this encyclopedia will benefit all who love South Carolina and are interested in learning more about her history." The Honorable Robert E. McNair "Monumental is much too small a word for this spectacular and spectacularly well done compendium of South Carolina people, places, and past history. This is a book to be treasured, a book to be enjoyed passage by passage, a book that will be on shelves in state and out for decades to come." John Jakes "For those of us who love South Carolina, Walter Edgar's interesting, single-volume history is so important. Now, he and his fellow collaborators in The South Carolina Encyclopedia have served our state with a magnificent collection that chronicles our history, our present, and the foundation for our future. We are so fortunate to have this thoughtful, comprehensive resource at our fingertips." The Honorable Richard W. Riley "Dr. Walter Edgar provided scholars and historians with one of the most comprehensive and important texts of South Carolina with his South Carolina: A History. His latest work, The South Carolina Encyclopedia, continues and expands on Edgar's tradition of excellence in South Carolina scholarship. This work is an invaluable resource for anyone seriously interested in the rich history and culture of our unique state." Jonathan Green

"In The South Carolina Encyclopedia Walter Edgar has once again provided a much needed sourcebook of collective knowledge for and about South Carolina. From the mountains to the coast, this definitive work effectively details everything that has made our great state what it is, how it is, and why it is. This is a tremendous contribution to our shared understanding of the heritage and culture of the Palmetto State and, not surprisingly, it is also a pleasure to read." The Honorable James B. Edwards "For more than six years I have eagerly awaited publication of The South Carolina Encyclopedia. This first-ever comprehensive volume, published by the University of South Carolina Press, funded through The Humanities Council SC, and edited by Dr. Walter Edgar from the Institute of Southern Studies at USC, will catalogue the diversity of people and experiences that have made South Carolina the extraordinary place it is today. This truly is the story of South Carolina as told by those who love her best." The Honorable Lindsey Graham