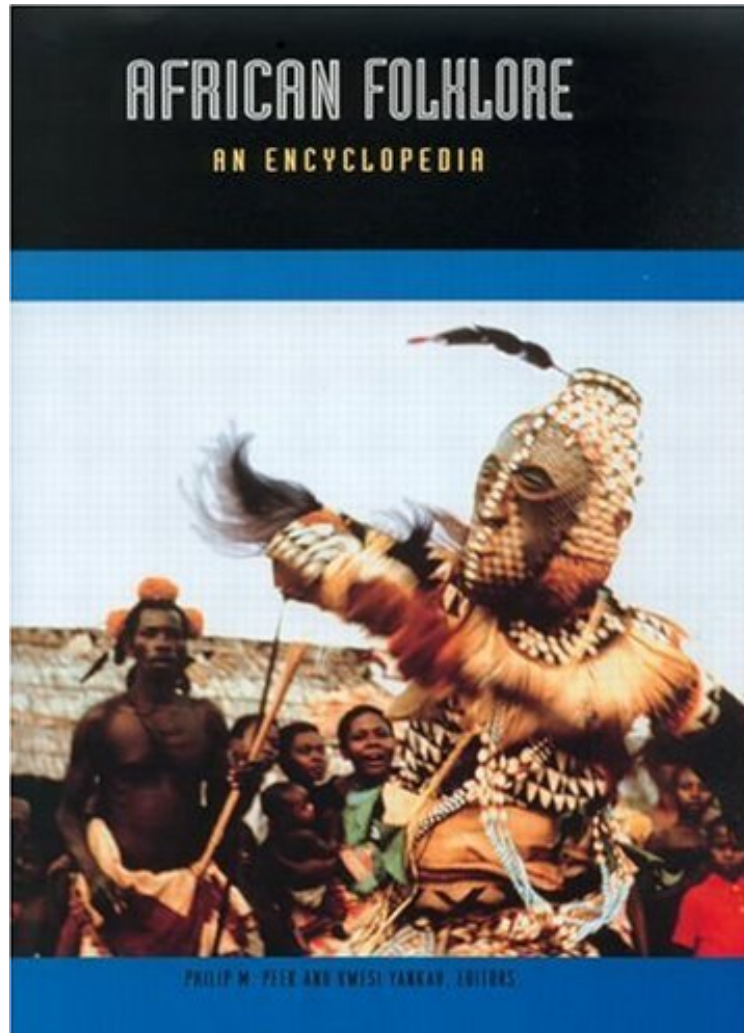


African Folklore: An Encyclopedia

From Routledge

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(averaging about three pages) signed articles, each with references. Sample topics include Dreams, Films on African folklore, Metallurgy and folklore, and articles on oral communication types like jokes, riddles, tongue twisters, call-and-response, songs, theater, and more. There are also brief surveys of African countries. Entries reflect the editors' broad concept of folklore as artistic communication inclusive of a variety of expressive behaviors and communicating media and of folklore's existing "primarily to provide group identity and homogeneity." An extensive index and cross-references are helpful navigation aids in addition to the list of entries that begins the encyclopedia. Appendixes-- "African Studies Centers and Libraries in the USA and Africa," a bibliography of the Field and Broadcast Sound Recording Collections at the Indiana University Archives of Traditional Music, a filmography, and a partial listing of dissertations and theses on African folklore at four U.S. universities--also add value. The list of contributors includes academic or other institutional affiliation for most of the 161 authors, who come from a variety of subject areas and countries. The editors also have the backgrounds necessary for this publication. Peek has authored various ethnographic studies of African cultures, including divination, arts, and ceremonies, and has also compiled several bibliographies of African and African American recordings of music and oral data. Yankah has written about political life, language, and folklore in Ghana. Their current project matches Routledge's other folklore encyclopedias in format and depth: South Asian Folklore: An Encyclopedia [RBB JI 03], Jan Harold Brunvand's American Folklore: An Encyclopedia (1996), and the forthcoming Jewish Folklore and the Encyclopedia of American Folk Art. African Folklore fits nicely in the gap between encyclopedias of Africa and encyclopedias of folklore, narrowing and sharpening the focus of each. There is no resource quite like this one. Highly recommended for academic and large public libraries. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Provides in-depth coverage... Extensive cross-referencing and bibliographic references enhance the volume's usefulness... An excellent introduction to African folklore as well as a convenient resource for leading researchers to further study, this is highly recommended for academic and large public libraries with folklore collections."-"Library Journal, February 1, 2004 "Fits nicely in the gap between encyclopedias of Africa and encyclopedias of folklore, narrowing and sharpening the focus of each. There is no resource quite like this one. Highly recommended for academic and large public libraries."-"Booklist/RBB, March 1, 2004 "An extremely useful resource... This book provides easy access to information along with reliable resources."-"Pennsylvania School Librarians Association Best Reference Titles 2003 "At the cutting edge of current folklore research... Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and higher."-"Choice, June 2004 "a representative coverage of folk culture for the whole continent... High quality... Thought-provoking introduction and entries... A welcome addition to the field... I recommend it highly."-"Reference User Services Quarterly, Fall 2004 About the Author Philip M. Peek is Professor of Anthropology at Drew University, USA. Kwesi Yankah is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Ghana.