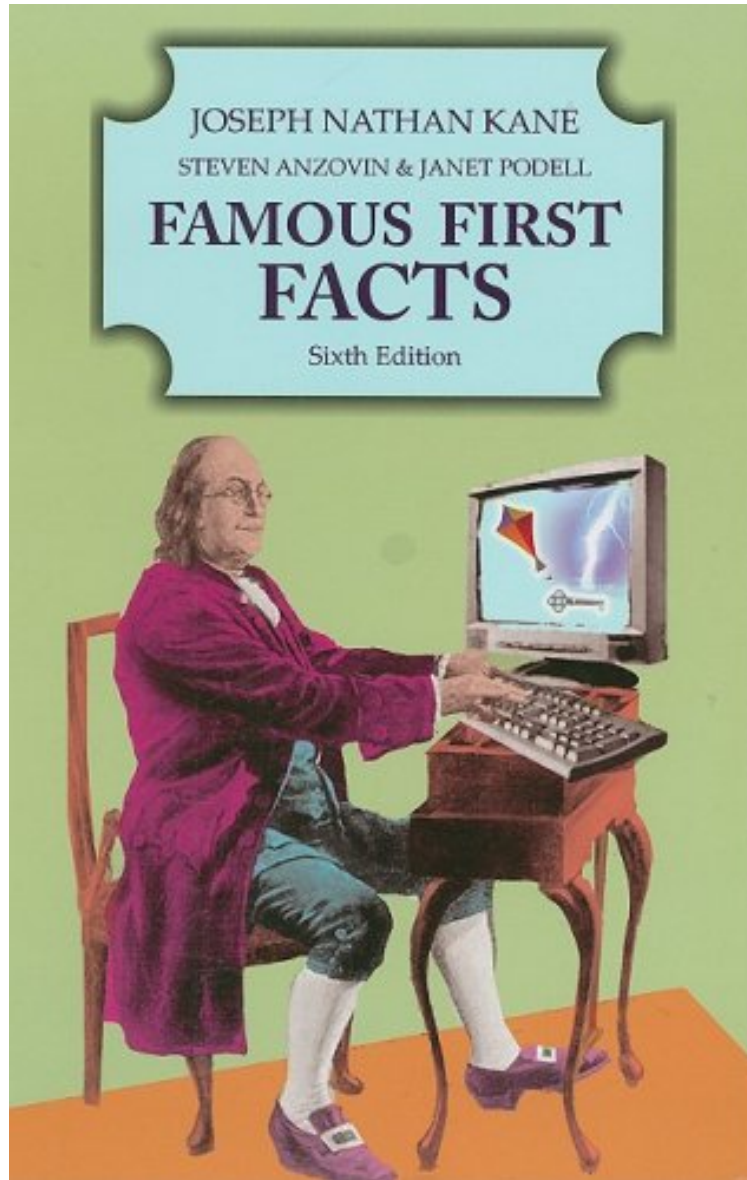


Famous First Facts

Joseph Nathan Kane, Steven Anzovin, Janet Podell
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Joseph Nathan Kane, Steven Anzovin, Janet Podell : Famous First Facts before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Famous First Facts:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun and educational By A. Starkey I absolutely love the simplicity of this huge volume full of trivia surrounding the invention of everything from diapers to dishpans. When I discovered the invention of disposable diapers happened in own city, I was amazed. It's well worth the money for students, writers,

or anyone just curious.0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Do. Not. Buy. This. Book.By carl169For reasons unknown to man- and womankind, the current editors of this classic reference book have decided to mess up the organization, making it impossible to find anything. Previously (at least in my much older version), everything was listed in simple alphabetical order from A to Z, page 1 to the end. Now, the entries are organized into Chapters with the entries listed not by subject but by date. What that means is if, for example, you want to know something about American state governors, you have to read through every entry in the 108 page chapter on Government and Politics rather than simply turning to the page with entries on -- holy moley -- governors. Or you have to go to the Index with pencil and paper and copy down the number of every single page that has the word "governor." Who has time? DO NOT BUY THIS BOOK. BUY AN EARLIER VERSION.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Expensive, but worth itBy David GlagovskyThe 6th edition of "Famous First Facts" continues the format that was used in the 5th edition. Entries are assigned a four-digit number. In the previous edition, starting with #1001, the final entry was 8155, on page 629. In the present edition, the final entry is 8549 on page 755. The five indexes (which take up 551 additional pages) use these reference numbers to guide the reader to information. A reader can look up items by subject, year, calendar date, personal names, and place names. The personal names index was changed for this edition. The 4th edition listed the subjects of the firsts attached to a person's name along with the entry numbers. Now only the entry numbers are given. I'm sure this was done to save space. The great majority of names have only one entry number listed with them. Other names have several numbers (e.g., Thomas Alva Edison has 19, and Dwight David Eisenhower has 25), which can make the task of finding a specific first a bit frustrating. The arrangement of categories has also been changed. In the 5th edition, broad categories were listed in alphabetical order from Agriculture to Writing Implements. In the new edition, categories have been reorganized into broad chapter headings. Agriculture is now included in the chapter on Business and Industry, along with, among others, Fishing and Whaling, Hospitality, and Shipping. Within chapters, the number of sections has been reduced. For example, the 5th edition's chapter had firsts associated with various religions listed (i.e., Religion-Buddhist, Religion-Catholic, Religion-Jewish, Religion-Mormon Church, etc.). Now these items are listed in a single, chronological list. The only division in the Religion chapter is Publications. Pictures have been added, and short trivia items are set off in boxes. The pictures are captioned, but there is no indication as to numbered item with which they are associated. Some of the various quibbles I had with the 5th edition have been cleared up, while others have not. I found at least one new entry that deserves inclusion, but isn't exactly correct. Anyway, here are comments on specific items, in no particular order, keyed to entry numbers in the 6th edition where appropriate: "7720. Sportscaster who was a woman to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame was Lesley Visser, who received the organization's Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award on August 5, 2006 in Canton, OH." This was probably a case of news reports that didn't get the story correct. As the first woman to receive the Pete Rozelle Award, she was the first woman honored by the Hall of Fame, but was not "inducted" into it. In 2006 the National Baseball Hall of Fame did induct its first woman, but she is not listed. Effa Manley, a Negro Leagues executive, was one of 17 inductees last year who were associated with the Negro Leagues. Just as there has been a Sergeant Major of the Army since 1966 (5451. William O. Wooldridge was first), who serves as the enlisted advisor to the army chief of staff, there has been a person of equivalent rank each of the other services. However, the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard have never received their due in any edition of the book. The Grammy Award to Milli Vanilli, which became the first to be retracted, is listed (1282), but there is no mention of the first Academy Award to be revoked. On April 14, 1969, the film "Young Americans" was awarded the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature for 1968. It was declared ineligible on May 7, 1969, when it was discovered that the film had been first exhibited in a theater in October 1967, thereby making it ineligible for the 1968 award. On May 8, 1969, "Journey Into Self", which finished second in the voting, was announced as the official winner. There is at least one item of misinformation from the 4th edition that has not been corrected. The first postage stamp depicting a Jew (4739) was NOT the 3-cent commemorative honoring Samuel Gompers, issued January 27, 1950. It was, in fact, the Four Chaplains 3-cent stamp issued May 28, 1948. The stamp was a tribute to the four military clergymen who went down with the S.S. Dorchester, so that others could take seats in lifeboats. One of the chaplains pictured is Rabbi Alexander D. Goode. Gompers was the first Jew to be honored on a postage stamp by himself. This entry has not been changed (3941): The first "Pope to visit the White House in Washington, DC, was Pope John Paul II, who flew across the Atlantic in Shepherd 1, landing in Boston, MA, on October 1, 1979. In six days he visited Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Urbandale, IA, Chicago, and Washington. He returned to Rome from Andrews Air Force Base, near Washington, on October 6." Here's a question: On which date did Pope John Paul II visit the White House? The entry doesn't say. One interesting aspect of the previous edition was retained. Entries within a category or subcategory are arranged chronologically, rather than alphabetically. So, under NEWS, the first four items are "Opinion poll" (in 1824), "News dispatch by telegraph" (1844), "News dispatch by commercial telegraph" (1844), and "Press censorship by military authorities" (1861). When items are read in order, the reader follows a time line of the firsts in a given subject. The biggest drawback of this book is the steep price increase. If you can afford it, it's worth it.

- Chapter headings displayed at the top of right-hand pages make it easier to browse for facts. - A main subject index, plus geographical, name, year, and day indexes, offer researchers direct access to any fact.

Originally published in 1933, this classic reference source was rejected by 11 other publishers until Halsey W. Wilson was persuaded to publish it because of a growing demand from reference librarians who had been shown the manuscript. Compiled by the indefatigable researcher Joseph Nathan Kane, Famous First Facts may have secured its own first fact the first print reference volume to become the basis for a popular radio program, which was hosted by the author in 1938-1939. This sixth edition contains about 7,500 entries, including more than 1,000 new and many updated ones. Arranged under 16 broad topical headings such as "Education," "Daily Life," and "Science and Technology," the text is easily accessible from several indexes, which comprise 600 pages! This edition also offers some new features, including interesting sidebars and photographs, that enhance its visual appeal. Besides serving as an essential ready-reference source, the book is also fun to read out loud to colleagues when was bubble gum first manufactured in the U.S.? When was the spray can introduced? The editors have admirably maintained the standards set by Kane, who died in 2002 at the age of 103. Since the previous edition was published a decade ago, public and academic libraries should consider this updated version an essential purchase. Altschiller, Donald Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved