12-1-2010

World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the Material Life of Slaves in the United States

Martha B. Katz-Hyman
Newport News, MARTHA.KATZ-HYMAN@JYF.VIRGINIA.GOV

Kym S. Rice
The George Washington University, kym@gwu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol13/iss4/20

This New Books is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.
New Book

World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the Material Life of Slaves in the United States
Edited by Martha B. Katz-Hyman and Kym S. Rice
ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press, Hardcover (two volumes)

Description from the Publisher:

This two-volume encyclopedia is the first to focus on the material life of slaves. Enslaved blacks retained some private realm that included toys, musical instruments, clothing, jewelry, and distinctive hair styles. Many individuals successfully preserved African traditions and beliefs, often adapting them to their new home. It is through such objects and practices that modern readers can gain at least some understanding of the day-to-day lives of these men, women, and children. Although many encyclopedias discuss slavery, enslaved blacks, and African American life and culture, none focus on the material world of slaves, such as what they saw; touched; heard; ate, drank, and smoked; wore; worked with and in; used, cultivated, crafted, played, and played with; and slept on. The two-volume World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the Material Life of Slaves in the United States is a landmark work in this important new field of study. Recognizing that a full understanding of the complexity of American slavery and its legacy requires an understanding of the material culture of slavery, the encyclopedia includes entries on almost every aspect of that material culture, beginning in the 17th century and extending through the Civil War. Readers will find information on animals, documents, economy, education and literacy, food and drink, home, music, personal items, places, religion, rites of passage, slavery, structures, and work. There are also introductory essays on literacy and oral culture and on music and dance.