George M. Eberhart is senior editor of American Libraries, e-mail: geberhart@ala.org

Encyclopedia of Demons in World Religions and Cultures, by Theresa Bane (409 pages, January 2012), identifies nearly 3,000 demons in the Judaeo-Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, Vodou, Mesopotamian, and Zoroastrian pantheons with brief descriptions and source notes for each. (My favorite is Ikwa-okinyapippilele, the Kuna nocturnal demon of headaches.) Bane, who has also written the Encyclopedia of Vampire Mythology (2010), avoids fictional demons and questionable sources in this compilation. A comprehensive index and bibliography follow the listings. Rupert Giles would definitely have had this book in his library at the Hellmouth. $75.00. McFarland. 978-0-7864-6360-2.

Mr. and Mrs. Madison’s War: America’s First Couple and the Second War of Independence, by Hugh Howard (365 pages, January 2012), is a straightforward and vivid recap of the War of 1812, a conflict we are somewhat hazily remembering this bicentennial year. Howard narrows his focus on James Madison, the first president to call for a declaration of war, and his strongest supporter and wife Dolley, who was responsible for saving the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington from the soon-to-be-burned White House. A more comprehensive treatment is likely in Troy Bickham’s forthcoming The Weight of Vengeance: The United States, the British Empire, and the War of 1812, published by Oxford University Press. $30.00. Bloomsbury. 978-1-60819-071-3.

New in New Orleans Architecture, by John P. Klingman (192 pages, March 2012), presents 80 architectural projects completed in New Orleans in the past 15 years that exemplify the best in contemporary architecture. Included are office buildings, museums and other institutions, university and school buildings, and residences. One library is represented, the John P. Isché Library Commons in the downtown Louisiana State University medical complex. All too often when we think of New Orleans the Vieux Carré comes to mind; this sampler reminds us that the city is far from being stuck in the past. $26.00. Pelican. 978-1-4556-1537-1.

One Hundred Percent American: The Rebirth and Decline of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s, by Thomas R. Pegram (280 pages, September 2011), reassesses the social role of the Klan in the first half of the 1920s when the organization had as many as 4 million members. To ordinary white Protestant Americans, both rural and urban, the Klan represented widely shared civic and moral values that were threatened by vast
cultural changes taking place after World War I. The often brutal vigilante behavior that made headlines in the South and Southwest, as well as the secrecy practiced by hooded groups at the local level, masked a more mainstream and complex activism. Its interest in expanding public education, for example, was a reflection of its strong opposition to the spread of Catholic schools; and the Klan’s little-known but enthusiastic role in enforcing prohibition was prompted by Protestant moral rigidity. Pegram contends that by 1925 the Klan’s propensity for violence and extremism, the arrogance of its leaders, and its maladroit grab for political influence resulted in group fragmentation and personal burnout. $27.95. Ivan R. Dee. 978-1-56663-711-4.

1616: The World in Motion, by Thomas Christensen (384 pages, February 2012), takes a close look at the events and personalities of a single year when the Renaissance was giving way to the early modern period. Christensen maintains a global perspective, moving easily from Ming China and Mughal India to Spanish silver mines and Dutch Golden Age painting, all of it accompanied by lavish color illustrations. One chapter examines the accomplishments of women of the time, among them the writers Lady Mary Wroth and Dorothy Leigh, the Christianized Jamestown Indian Pocahontas, the Basque soldier Catalina de Erauso, and the Italian painter Artemisia Gentileschi. Another chapter explores the commingling of scientific discovery, mysticism, alchemy, and witchcraft that signified the era’s obsession with both physics and metaphysics. $35.00. Counterpoint. 978-1-58243-774-3.