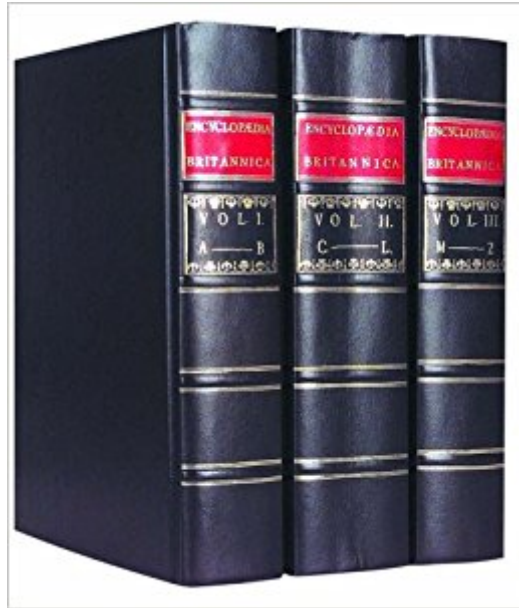




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Synopsis

Nearly a quarter millennium after the "Society of Gentlemen in Scotland" captured the sum total of extant human knowledge in the first edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, what was known then, and what was not, will fascinate, intrigue, surprise, and entertain family and friends for hours on end. The handsome three-volume reproduction is so beautifully executed that it's almost indistinguishable from the 1768 original, right down to the natural age spots and watermarks on the pages. A must-have for collectors of history or vintage books, the set lends an unmistakable air of prestige to any home or office. See for yourself one of the world's most influential publications - the books that established Britannica's tradition of comprehensiveness and authority in general knowledge that has remained unsurpassed ever since.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

after looking through them, it's amazing the quality

Very happy with the purchase. It was a father's day gift and my husband loves it. I wish it would have arrived in a plain brown box because it was in the publisher's box and my husband saw it when arrived. But the price and the package was great, brand new as well. fast shipping. thank you

Just fun to have. Britannica book's were a staple in the good old days and just fun to have on the book case.

Well, besides purchasing the complete Britannica encyclopedia to replace my set from 1971 which was destroyed in a 2009 house fire I now have the original 3-volume set. It came very well boxed with each of the volumes protected by shrink wrap. It's too bad that the set when it was originally put together in the late 18th century didn't have an index but who's to quibble? It's interesting to look at, is very well bound and makes for a great addition to my library. Plus getting it at a sale price made me even happier. Recommended for anyone who has an interest in what the world was like in the 18th century.

This Britannica First Edition Replica Set is every poor-man's collectible tome without the expense of a true antique set of books. Add to that the benefit of beautifully replicated "new" books without the often-found deterioration of old books. Additionally, the information found on each and every page takes the reader back in time in a manner in which only faithful replication of the original books can. Don't deny yourself! If you love reading and history equally well you've gotta have this set.

There's a wonderful episode in series three of Blackadder in which, for reasons I cannot quite remember, Baldrick and Blackadder work through the night to recreate Dr Johnson's dictionary. I think they get as 'Aardvark'. There's a sense of too much effort being invested up-front in this first edition of the Encyclopaedia. The three equally-sized volumes cover A-B, C-L and M-Z. The volumes were written and published a few years apart, and you can imagine the editorial meeting in 1768 when they realised that they had only cover A to B. Would they continue at the same pace, and possibly not live to see a final XYZ volume published? (What would their wives say?!) Or would they rush the rest, and hope that no-one noticed the imbalance? Well, now we can enjoy the imbalance. A word of warning: you need to get used to the archaic form of the letter 's', which looks like an 'f' except at the end of a word or when in uppercase. Thus we get phrases like 'notwithftanding thefe difadvantages' and conceivably 'fupposing Pope's Iliad to be fhit'. The reproduction of the three volumes has been done on a photographic basis, using an aged edition. Thus you'll be buying a pristine photocopy of someone's original, as it is now, splodges and all. As others have noted, the binding is not real leather, but this doesn't bother me. Each volume is surprisingly light, given that you're getting around 1,000 pages per book. And that includes a number of fold-out tables. The content is particularly Scottish, by the way, although there is no harm in that. Thus if you look up 'Law', there's almost nothing on the law of England and Wales, yet the editor appears to have filled countless pages with the full text of every Scottish statute in operation at the time. As you might expect, this is not the first encyclopaedia to buy if you're looking for

something to help your kids through GCSEs. I suspect that, 250 years on, over half the entries are incorrect or at least out of kilter with today's understanding of the world. But it's a fascinating thing to browse through.

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