



JAY ROBERT NASH

BACKGROUND AND CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR PUBLISHED WORKS



Jay Robert Nash with director Alfred Hitchcock.



Jay Robert Nash with photographer Yousuf Karsh.

Jay Robert Nash, widely recognized as one of the world's foremost historians, biographers and encyclopedists, has authored more than seventy single-volume trade and multi-volume reference works, which have become standards in their fields. He is the only author to receive *four* Best Reference citations from the American Library Association. The ALA's Best Reference citations were awarded for Nash's single-volume trade reference works, *Bloodletters and Badmen: A Narrative Encyclopedia of American Criminals from the Pilgrims to the Present* (more than two million copies sold to date) and *Darkest Hours: A Narrative Encyclopedia of Worldwide Disasters from Ancient Times to the Present*. Nash received two Best Reference citations from the ALA for the definitive multi-volume film encyclopedia, *The Motion Picture Guide*. Nash is also the recipient of the Edgar Allan Poe Award from the Mystery Writers of America for his multi-volume *Encyclopedia of World Crime*.

Nash, who served in U.S. intelligence, has been a newspaper and magazine reporter, editor, syndicated columnist and publisher. He was editor and publisher of *The Literary Times*; editor-in-



Jay Robert Nash with novelist Jack Conroy.



Jay Robert Nash with jazzman Bud Freeman.



Jay Robert Nash with Joseph "Yellow Kid" Weil.



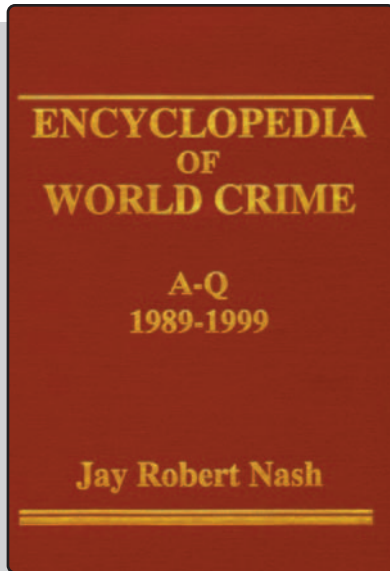
Jay Robert Nash with Willie "The Actor" Sutton.

chief of *ChicagoLand Magazine*, Chicago's first city magazine; editor and publisher of *CrimeFacts*. His syndicated columns, *On Crime* and *Crime Journal* appeared in dozens of U.S. newspapers during the 1970s-1990s, including the *Chicago Daily News*, the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, and the *San Jose Mercury News*, syndicated by King Features. He was the editor and publisher of several reference publishing firms, including CineBooks, Inc., CrimeBooks, Inc., and (presently) History, Inc.

Through his highly-productive career—resulting in more than 50 million words in print under his byline—Nash interviewed and befriended some of the world's most fascinating persons, including film directors Alfred Hitchcock, John Ford, John Huston; writers Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck, Saul Bellow, Ben Hecht, James T. Farrell, Jack Conroy; photographers Edward Steichen and Yousuf Karsh; artists Jasper Johns and Eddie Balchowski; and those of darker pursuits such as the celebrated con man, Joseph "Yellow Kid" Weil and notorious bankrobber Willie "The Actor" Sutton. These and hundreds more were later profiled in Nash's many books.

With a long-established, dedicated staff of research and technical experts, Nash has developed comprehensive reference archives (500,000 books, 3 million text files, 5 million historical images) on all worldwide persons, places, things and events throughout history. His own information network of impeccable reference sources is worldwide and has been carefully developed over several decades.

Nash is married to Chicago attorney Judith Anne [Anetsberger] Nash and has three children—Lee, Andrea and Jay Robert Nash IV. Present works include *I am Innocent! A Worldwide History of Wrongly Convicted Persons* (available in fall 2008), *Encyclopedia of Civil War Battles* (available in 2009), and Commercial Research Image Archives, wherein his vast and unique historical images will be offered on subscription online to reference firms (in fall 2008).



CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR SOME OF JAY ROBERT NASH'S PUBLISHED WORKS:

Multi-volume reference works:

Encyclopedia of World Crime, 8 volumes, containing 25,000 entries on every major figure and event in criminal justice, criminology, and law enforcement from ancient times to the present. Mr. Nash was the creator of this work, as well as publisher, editor-in-chief and author (of more than 10 million words). Published by CrimeBooks, Inc., Wilmette, Illinois, 1990. The Mystery Writers of America Association awarded Mr. Nash, as author of this work, the Edgar Allan Poe Award in 1991.

Critical acclaim for the *Encyclopedia of World Crime*:

"This mammoth undertaking compiles in one source almost every major crime in history, and the range is amazing, from Roman Emperors to the Wild West to the Chicago underworld. Each entry ends with a helpful bibliography, and many have photographs ... fascinating."

—*Library Journal*

"*The Encyclopedia of World Crime* by Jay Robert Nash is another fact-filled reference blockbuster ... Most of the entries are biographical, covering many otherwise hard-to-find facts about criminals, victims and law enforcement agents of every stripe from the famous to the obscure. All periods of history are included, so that one finds the Roman poisoner-empress Livia Drusilla and the assassinated Archduke Francis Ferdinand in company with Patty Hearst, John Wayne Gacy and the Abscam trials. Western outlaws, Depression-era gangsters, prominent Nazis, bordello madams, political prisoners, unsolved murders—even accused cannibals—are only a few of the subject areas in which these volumes excel."

—*College and Research Library News*

"Jay Robert Nash knows crime, not speculatively or academically, but reportorially, at the level of the most intense and thorough investigative journalism. The entries present the most notable and important international criminal cases, persons, places, and events, as well as important persons in the fields of law enforcement, criminal justice, the judiciary, criminology, forensic medicine, pathology, penology, and criminal psychiatry and psychology. They also cover works of drama, fiction, film, poetry and song, explaining the real-life role models for such works ... The areas he [Nash] knows, he knows better than just about anyone else."

—*Book News, Inc.*

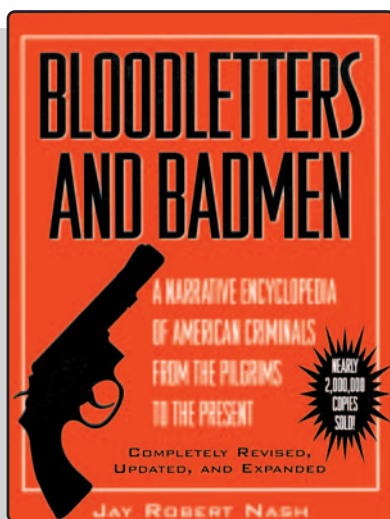
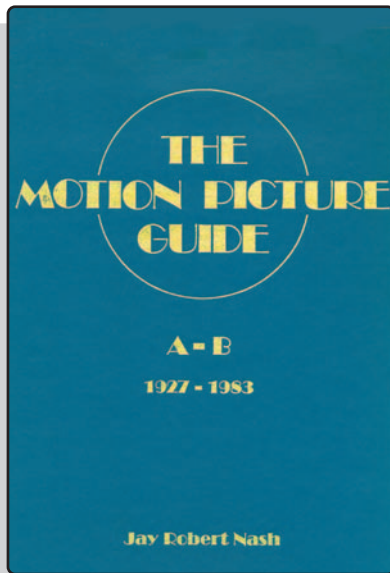
Acclaim from four Pulitzer Prize winners for Jay Robert Nash's *Encyclopedia of World Crime*:

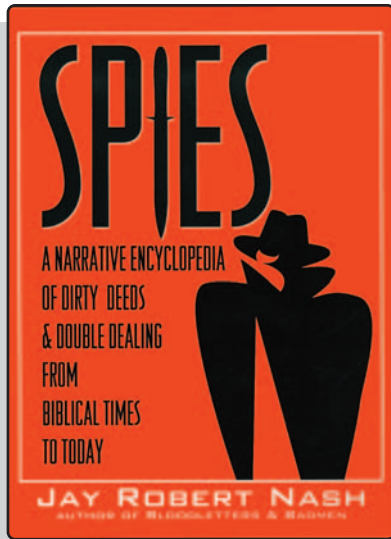
"Jay Robert Nash has assembled an astonishing array of facts and lore about the world of crime. Has there ever been an encyclopedia so much fun to simply browse through?"

—Roger Ebert, syndicated TV commentator and film critic for the *Chicago Sun-Times*

"*The Encyclopedia of World Crime* is unbeatable, and it provides better, more fascinating reading than a good whodunit. It's all true, which makes it all the more intriguing. All the criminals great and small, the world over, are present. This enormous set is so well researched, loaded with thousands of references, that it becomes a one-stop source. It's the definitive work in the field of crime."

—Mike Royko, *Chicago Tribune*



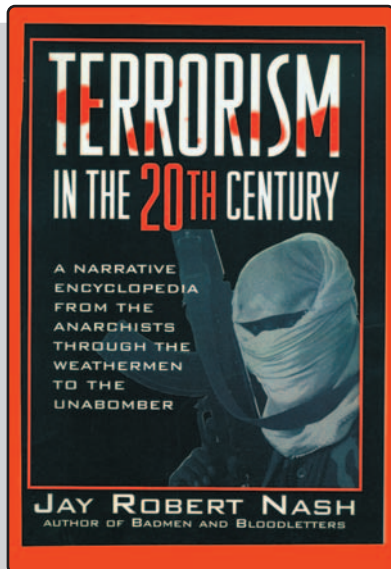


“Jay Robert Nash has amassed everything he knows about crime into this set. It should be an invaluable reference tool for students and professionals and a fascinating delight for the general reader. Well done!”

—William Mullen, *Chicago Tribune*

“Jay Robert Nash’s *Encyclopedia of World Crime* is an enormous historical achievement. Students and teachers will be using these huge books for decades to come, as will professionals in law enforcement, criminal justice, criminology and the media. All will turn to it as the classic in the field. Without doubt, this encyclopedia is the greatest research tool in crime.”

—Art Petacque, *Chicago Sun-Times*



The Motion Picture Guide, 12 volumes [15 update annual editions], containing 65,000 entries on every feature film ever produced to date, published by CineBooks, Chicago, 1984-1986. The American Library Association named this work as a “Best Reference Work” for 1986; in 1991, the ALA named this work as a “Best Reference Work” for the decade (1980s). Mr. Nash was the creator of this work, as well as publisher, editor-in-chief and central author for all reviews (writing more than 18,000,000 words for the original 25,000,000 words published in the first seventeen volumes—annual editions were produced up to 1999). This encyclopedic work can be found in almost every major library in the world.

Critical acclaim for *The Motion Picture Guide*:

“A film lover’s treasure. In one awesomely ambitious publishing undertaking, the best of two worlds: scholarship of breadth and depth, and critical judgments of liveliness, intelligence and wit! A definitive reference work.”

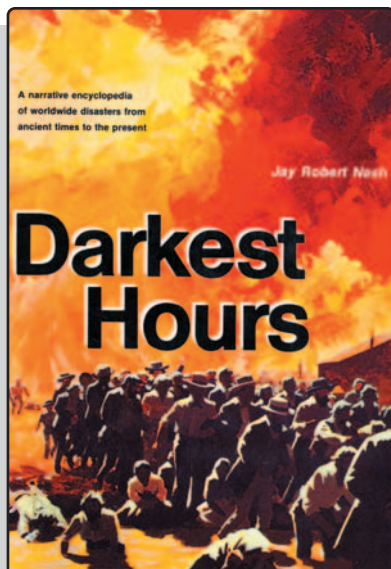
—Roger Ebert, co-host of “At the Movies,”
Pulitzer Prize winning film critic for
the *Chicago Sun-Times*

“*The Motion Picture Guide* is unarguably the most comprehensive film encyclopedia ever produced.”

—*College and Research Libraries News*

“*The Motion Picture Guide* is destined to be the major source for the film question, for the film scholar or trivia buff, and for serious or casual research ... no library should be without it.”

—*American Libraries*



“Some film reference books are good at listing cast and credits, others at summarizing plots, and still others at evaluating movies. This, however, is the first to excel at all three. The glory of this encyclopedic film guide is its critical synopses. This is destined to become a classic of film reference.”

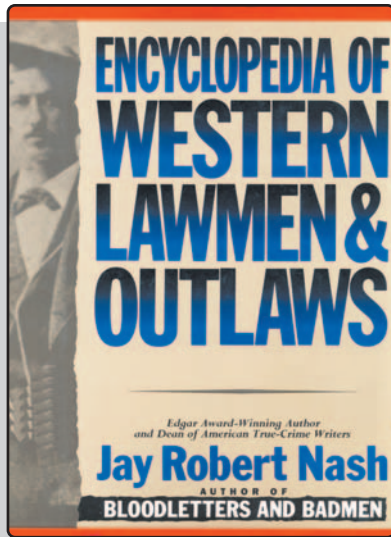
—*Wilson Library Bulletin*

“An excellent reference tool at a reasonable price ... The Guide’s factual material and synopses are unequaled elsewhere and provide the detailed coverage promised for so many years, but never delivered, in the unfinished American Film Institute Catalogue of Motion Pictures. Recommended for film collections.”

—*Library Journal*

“The reviews are penetrating, delightfully humorous, filled with inside stories and personality insights. What a spectacular study and research tool. It will be a one-stop source for answers about any film.”

—*Classic Images*



“The most exciting news in movie book publishing today.”

—*The Big Reel*

“It is virtually impossible to find a motion picture produced in the United States which the Guide does not list and describe.”

—*Screen Magazine*

“It’s the best possible work you can have if you’re a film buff.”

—Tom Fitzpatrick, *Arizona Republic*

“The film reference books to end all reference books. The most comprehensive film encyclopedia in print.”

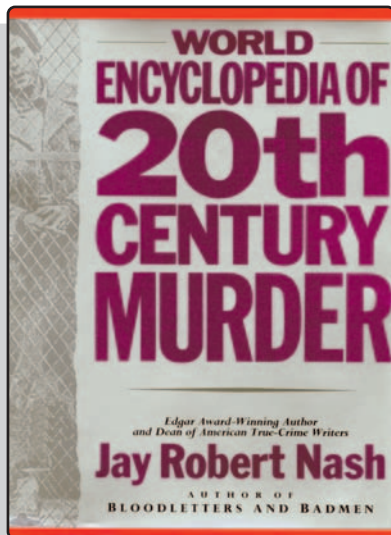
—Charles Champlin, *Los Angeles Times*

“Monumental ... Film buffs should be delighted by the legend-and-lore anecdotes with which the text is peppered.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“A must for libraries, video stores and collectors ... there’s never been a film encyclopedia this thorough.”

—*Seattle Times*



“So valuable and packed with information, I don’t know how we did without it.”

—*New York Magazine*

“... expertly edited ... The in-depth treatment is what distinguishes The Motion Picture Guide from previously published encyclopedias and gives it its unique dimension.”

—*Back Stage Magazine*

“Lengthy plot summaries and in-depth discussions of social, historic and technical aspects on each film (provide) a distinct feature of this collection.”

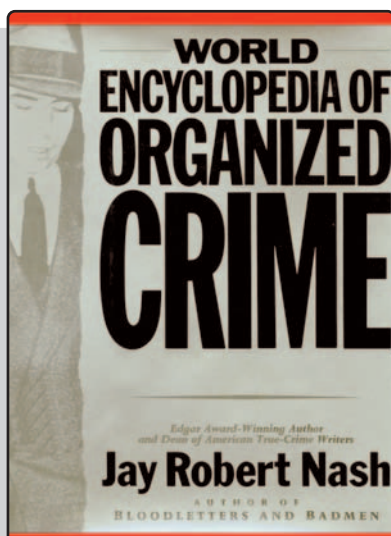
—*Cinema Canada*

“With all due respect to previous film reference works, reviewers and serious viewers ... have needed something better ... Now we’ve got it.”

—*Los Angeles Daily News*

“At last there is a mammoth guide to films that encourage reading just for the joy of it ... this is a major contribution to motion picture reference materials and it should be treated as such by all agencies.”

—*American Reference Books Annual*, 1986



“A landmark work on the film industry ... The definitive encyclopedia ... This massive undertaking in film reference should appear in all libraries that serve the casual or serious film researcher.”

—*The Journal of Academic Librarianship*

“Entries are five to ten times as long as entries in other books.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“The definitive and certainly the most exhaustive reference work on the motion picture industry ever published.”

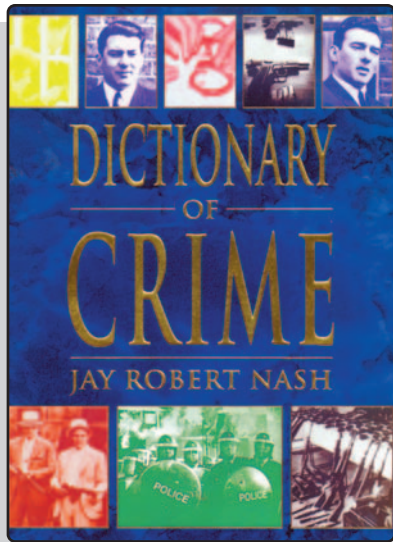
—*Crain’s Chicago Business*

“A masterful compilation expertly edited by Jay Robert Nash.”

—*American Cinematographer Magazine*

“An invaluable reference source.”

—Martin Scorsese, film director



"I keep dipping into it and discovering how little I know."

—Kevin Brownlow, author of *The Parade's Gone By*

"The Motion Picture Guide is more entertaining than most movies."

—Dick Cavett, TV critic and show host

"A magnificent job on a landmark project."

—Jack Mathis, film historian

"Colossal! Stupendous! Cast of thousands! What an awesome achievement! An indispensable reference work that charms your socks off with its incisive and entertaining descriptions. A must for movie fans of all ages."

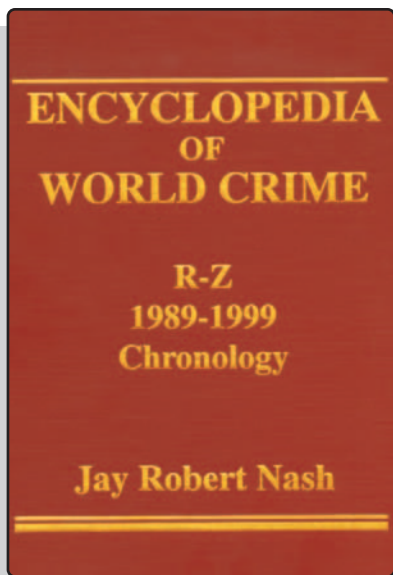
—Jack Haley, Jr.,
producer of "That's Entertainment"

"An invaluable reference."

—Gene Kelly, actor-dancer, writer, director

"A reference work of astonishing detail and passion ... necessary reading for the serious student of films ... a triumph of mind-bending research ... Every page hums with the fervor of the film zealot."

—Tony Perkins, actor



Single-Volume Trade Editions:

Bloodletters and Badmen: A Narrative Encyclopedia of American Criminals from the Pilgrims to the Present, published by M. Evans, New York, 1973. A major selection of Playboy Book Club; Alternate selection of Literary Guild. Reprinted in trade paper by M. Evans, 1975, updated in 1983, 1991 and 1995 and currently still in print in trade paper. (Hardbound, trade paper and pocket edition sales are in excess of 2,000,000 copies to date.) Published in three separate mass market editions by Warner Paperback Library, 1974 [with twenty new editions issued over the next fifteen years). The American Library Association named *Bloodletters and Badmen* as a "Best Reference Work for 1973." This book has been required reading for many years in college-level criminology courses.

Critical acclaim for *Bloodletters and Badmen*:

"A monument to American misbehavior."

—New York Times

"Written in a breezy, entertaining style, the book is as fascinating as a hundred good detective novels."

—Newsday

"Fascinating reading about criminals who have made headlines from Colonial times to the present."

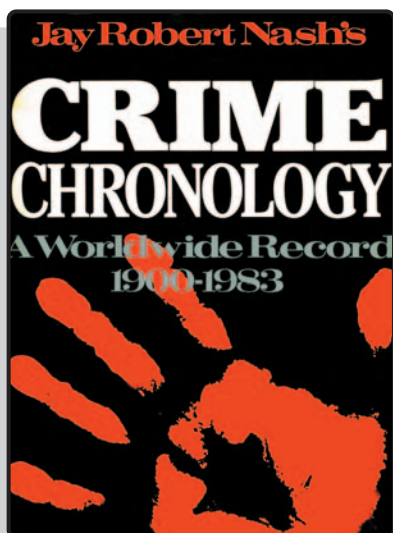
—Hartford (Conn.) Times

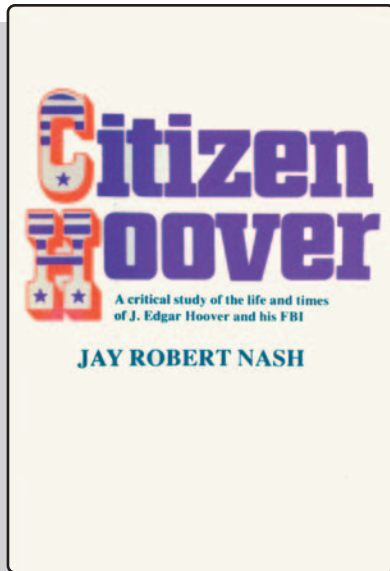
"This is a brilliant idea beautifully executed ... an important vein of our history and culture that Jay Robert Nash has put into such convenient and readable form."

—Maxwell Geismar, Chicago Sun-Times

"This is Jay Robert Nash's top performance to date. All of the big names in criminal history are in this huge book. But it is the obscure criminals unearthed by the indefatigable Nash that gives the work its charm. We shall all be reading from it, studying it for style, and talking about it for years to come."

—Pulitzer Prize Winner Tom Fitzpatrick, Chicago Sun-Times





“Chicagoan Jay Robert Nash’s new book, *Bloodletters and Badmen*, is fascinating.”

—Robert J. Herguth, *Chicago Daily News*

“In its pages a thousand novelists can find the raw material for their tales.”

—Long Beach (Calif.) *Press-Telegram*

“Filled with a special kind of Americana.”

—Roderick Craib, *Business Week*

“Author Nash presents his subjects in a clear, concise style, seldom passing judgment ... It really is a good reference work.”

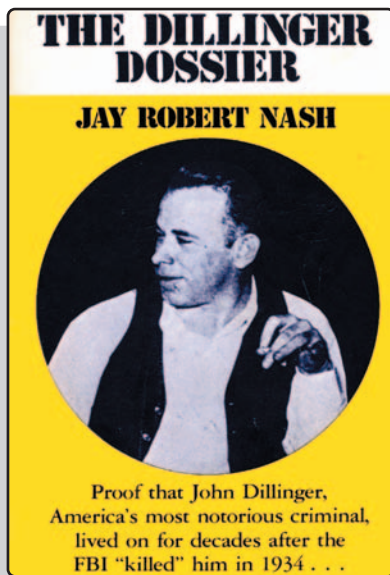
—Mike Lonsford, *Houston Chronicle*

“A superlative compendium of American criminals since the days of the Puritans.”

—Herman Kogan, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“*Bloodletters and Badmen* provides enough skullduggery, violence and mayhem to rivet even the most jaded crime buff to his easy chair for days. Nash has compiled a convenient and useful reference work which can also be used for endless browsing ... Nash does a thorough job ... His book is well worth dipping into ... ”

—Judson Hand, *New York Daily News*



“A definitive document of America’s criminal past ... a scholarly collation ... a fascinating work of America’s criminal past, and one that describes emotional behavior, both inherited or acquired, which contributes to the development of this illuminating book.”

—Buffalo *Courier-Express*

“A ready reference tool for both the general reader and the criminologist ... will prove to be useful ... Excellent photographs and lithographs illustrate some 300 of the entries. An extensive bibliography is included of the sources used.”

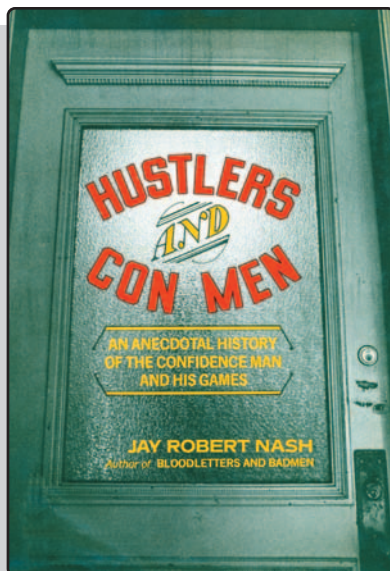
—*Library Journal*

“A cornucopia of crime ... This book is lavishly illustrated and makes zesty reading ... It will obviously become a standard work in its field.”

—John Barkham Reviews

“*Bloodletters and Badmen* is an intriguing book, a handy reference and ideal for browsing into the characters who lived outside the law from the days of the Mayflower to the Mafia.”

—Ralph Hollenbeck, *Parade of Books*



“Readable biographies of both the most notorious and the lesser known criminals are found in this fascinating work. Each biography is headed with “hard data” (who’s who type information), followed by a narrative discussion of the outlaw’s life ... An impressive bibliography of sources lends authority and usefulness to the work. A detailed index helpfully leads one to mention of one criminal in the biography of another ... History and crime buffs will be disappointed if the only copy of this work is on reference and unavailable for reading at home.”

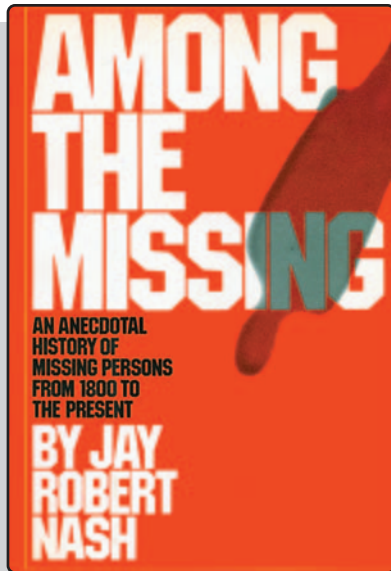
—*Wilson Library Bulletin*

“A comprehensive and highly readable compendium of our nation’s darker side ... Nash has industriously researched that aspect of history which makes daily headlines ... There is a vast wealth of knowledge in Nash’s book. It is a magnificently presented work that is well written and finely illustrated. It is superbly researched.”

—Queens College (N.Y.) *News*

“The most complete book ever concerning crime in this country. And it’s fascinating reading, too.”

—Richard Burk, *Houston Post*



"Bloodletters and Badmen is without question an excellent compendium of basic information, and, because of its immense bibliography, is probably without parallel as a starting point for further research into criminal careers. Adding greatly to the book's entertainment potential are 300 photographs and lithographs (oh, that's what the Sundance Kid looked like)."

—E. Michael Desilets, *New Haven Register*

"Few encyclopedia-type books could be rated as 'terrific reading' but this one can. Nobody's going to put it on a shelf for reference purposes alone. It sneaks up on you, demands being read."

—*Colorado West*

"There is no question about the fascination this book has for the reader."

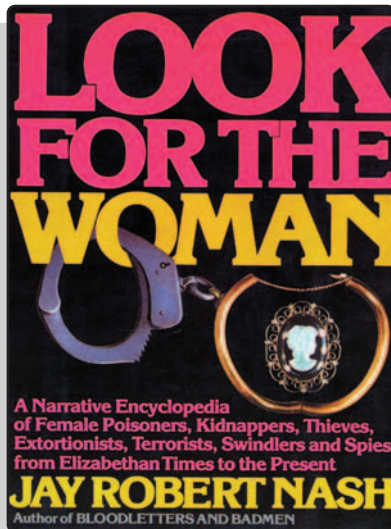
—Charleston (S.C.) *Evening Post*

"An impressive collection of stories about famous and infamous criminals and their careers ... The book was carefully researched ... Nash has a genuine talent for clarifying as he compresses."

—Covington (Ky.) *Post & Times Star*

"At last a who's who of the guys in the black hats ... Nash writes straightforwardly and concisely."

—*Chicago Tribune*



"Filmmakers, writers, researchers, lawyers and sociologists should be interested in this fascinating gallery, and it's a must for libraries."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"This is a big, lavish encyclopedia of the American criminal world ... The information presented seems quite complete, and it explodes many of the legendary American badmen myths ... An unusually substantial book on a relatively unexplored subject, Bloodletters and Badmen should dominate its field."

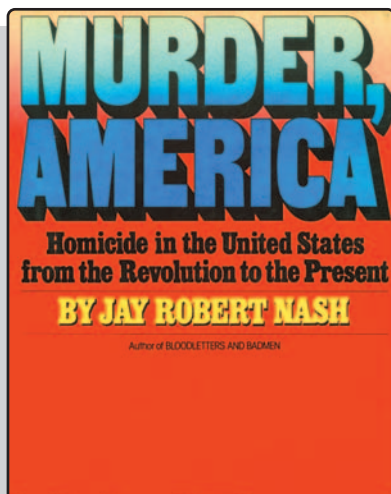
—Lafayette (In.) *Journal & Courier*

"Jay Robert Nash has compiled certainly as complete a dictionary of American criminals as anyone is ever likely to want ... The research is prodigious."

—*Best Sellers*

"Reference librarians who have found it difficult to locate biographical material on persons who are notorious rather than famous should welcome this new (and I think unprecedented) biographical dictionary of American malefactors ... Wide coverage, extensive research, and a readable style make this volume a useful source of information. Recommended for general reference collections."

—John L. Breen, *Library Journal*



"A gaudy and gorgeous volume, Bloodletters and Badmen is Nash's crowning achievement to date ... Nash has spent years of diligent labor on the research and writing ... Nash has a lively eye, an inquiring and skeptical mind and a keen sense of the absurd, which, coupled with his distinct flair for dramatic exposition, makes this mammoth compendium an absorbing experience."

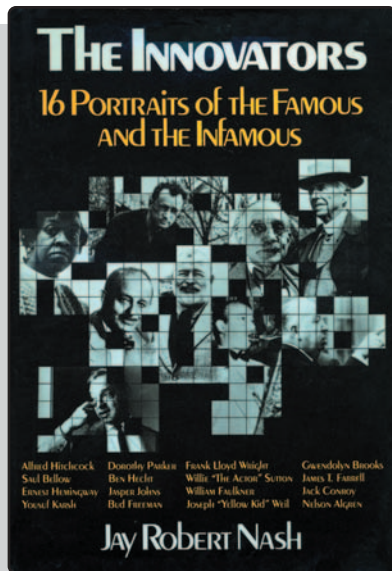
—Jack Conroy, *Kansas City Star*

"A very thorough and lucid encyclopedia of the most infamous criminals in American history."

—Washington Square *Daily News* (New York University)

"Nash goes into great detail chronicling the background of each malefactor."

—*TV-Radio Mirror*



“A vastly readable compendium of vile men and women wanted for every crime in the book.”

—Santa Monica (Calif.) *Independent-Journal*

“This is the biggest book of criminal lore ever assembled ... A lot of good writing, a lot of literary tone, slips into [Nash’s] encyclopedia of American crime.”

—Los Angeles *Free Press*

“If readability were the test for a good reference book, Jay Robert Nash’s *Bloodletters* and *Badmen* would have to be recommended as one of the year’s best ... a needed resource for reporters, the plain curious and librarians ... Recommended for all medium to large public libraries.”

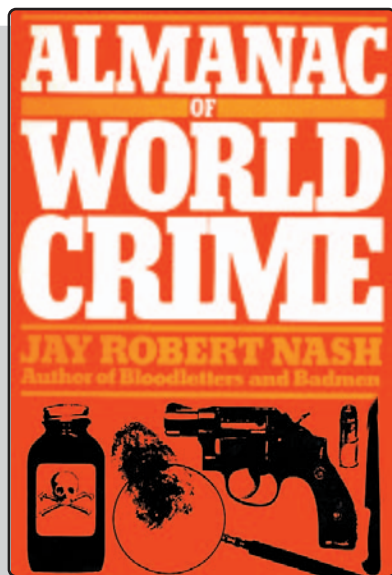
—*American Libraries*

“Anybody interested in criminology will find weeks of happy reading in this book.”

—Miram Allen deFord, San Francisco *Chronicle*

“One finds it difficult to even thumb through the book without stopping to read an entry that catches the eye.”

—Van Hawkins, Newport News (Va.) *Times-Herald*



“This extraordinary book has all the enticement for the eye of the latest murder mystery, a Bonnie and Clyde film, or a secret FBI report.”

—Portland (Me.) *Globe*

“One of the most remarkable books ever published on American crime and criminals.”

—*American History Illustrated*

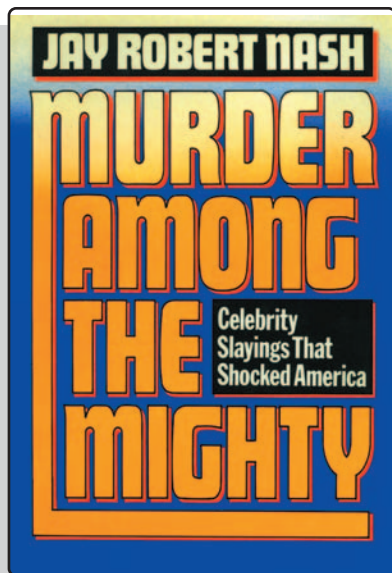
“A good book, a highly readable book and a very useful reference work.”

—Tucson (Ariz.) *Daily Reporter*

“An intriguing mosaic of American crime and criminals.”

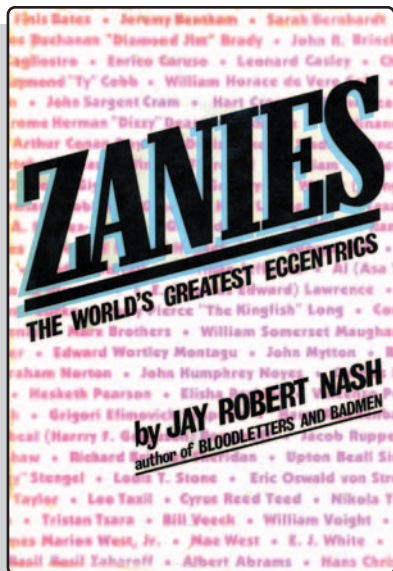
—Milwaukee *Journal*

Spies: A Narrative Encyclopedia of Dirty Tricks and Double Dealing from Biblical Times to Today, published by M. Evans, New York, 1997.



“Nash has been well known to reference librarians at least since the first edition of *Bloodletters* and *Badmen* (M. Evans, 1973), providing biographies on more than 400 American gangsters, murderers, robbers and the like from the early seventeenth century to the present. In this new title, Nash has compiled, in the same format and style as *Bloodletters*, a volume on spies. Coverage ranges from biblical times (Caleb, Delilah, Joshua) to Benedict Arnold and Nathan Hale of the American Revolution era, from Lincoln’s Allan Pinkerton to the Confederate agents Rose Greenhow and Belle Boyd, from World War II’s Quisling and Richard Sorge to postwar spies Gary Powers and Aldridge Ames. In addition, a considerable attention is given to intelligence/espionage agencies around the world, such as the CIA, FBI, Gestapo, and KGB ... Nash’s latest will be useful in both reference and circulating collections of high-school, public and academic libraries.”

—*Booklist*



Terrorism in the 20th Century: A Narrative Encyclopedia from the Anarchists through the Weathermen to the Unabomber, published by M. Evans, New York, 1998.

“*Terrorism in the 20th Century* is a virtual who’s who of politically motivated mayhem and murder in our times. Author Jay Robert Nash constructs a frightening rogues’ gallery of both little-known and infamous criminals, beginning with the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 and working his way to the Unabomber and Timothy McVeigh.”

—Amazon.com

“A bestselling author chronicles a century of violence—political assassinations, kidnappings, bombings, lynchings, and hijackings. From the destruction of the Los Angeles Times building in the 1910s to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, this book is a detailed history of our uncertain times.”

—Ingram

Dillinger: Dead or Alive?, published by Regnery, Chicago, 1970.

Critical acclaim for *Dillinger: Dead or Alive?*:

“An impressive gravamen against J. Edgar Hoover and his department.”

—Jack Conroy, *Kansas City Star*

“Fascinating evidence that the FBI and the police were suckered into killing a dopple-ganger.”

—George McEvoy, *San Francisco Examiner*

“Nash researched the subject thoroughly.”

—Chicago *Sun-Times*

“The book reports glaring inaccuracies, contradictory testimony, misrepresentations, and outright distortion of facts.”

—Oscar W. Rexford, *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*

“An explosively controversial book.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“One of the most remarkable jobs of investigative reporting we are likely to see in our time.”

—Thomas Gifford, *Minneapolis Tribune*

“A good expose of particular interest to the 1920s and 1930s crime enthusiast.”

—*Library Journal*

“A Sherlockian exercise that for excitement and sheer fascination is hard to match.”

—*Mobile Press*

“Nash has toiled to good purpose.”

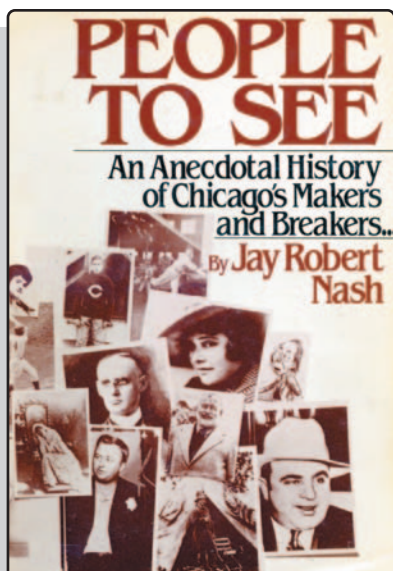
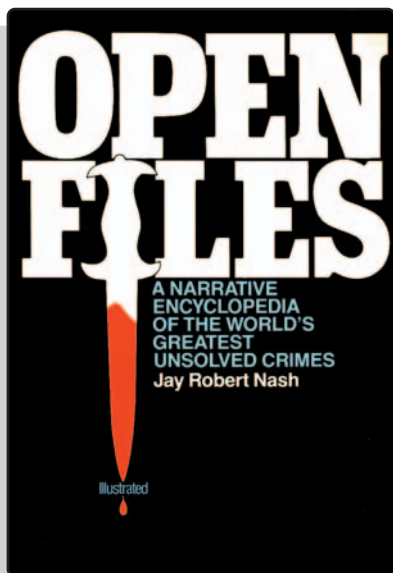
—*Saturday Review*

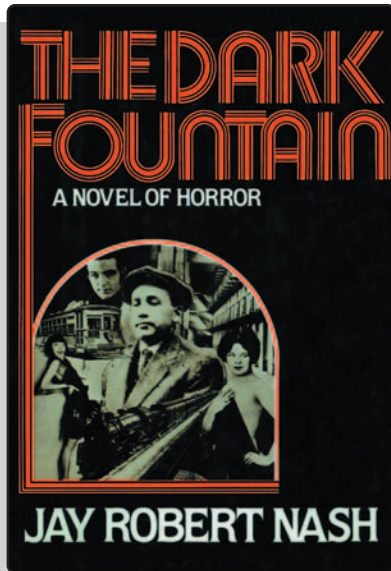
“Mr. Nash is a journalist with an eye for intrigue. He turns up a sublime conspiracy.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Will not only raise a reasonable doubt in the reader’s mind but also take him on a fascinating tour of the early thirties.”

—*Los Angeles Times*





“It should be welcomed by all who are interested in the *true* story.”

—Cincinnati *Enquirer*

“Author Jay Robert Nash has made a strong case to prove that in 1934 the FBI killed a small-time hoodlum named Jimmy Lawrence instead of Dillinger and that Number One remained alive and free.”

—*The Book of Lists*

Citizen Hoover: A Critical Study of the Life and Times of J. Edgar Hoover and His FBI, published by Nelson-Hall, Chicago, 1972.

Critical acclaim for *Citizen Hoover*:

“Uses the prisms of Hoover’s personality to peer into the FBI’s flaws ... Nash’s book is quite enjoyable reading.”

—Patrick R. Oster, Chicago *Sun-Times*

“Citizen Hoover is an important book ... Nash’s credentials as an investigative reporter are solid.”

—Robert Aldace Wood, *Kansas City Magazine*

“Mr. Nash turns the FBI myth on its head.”

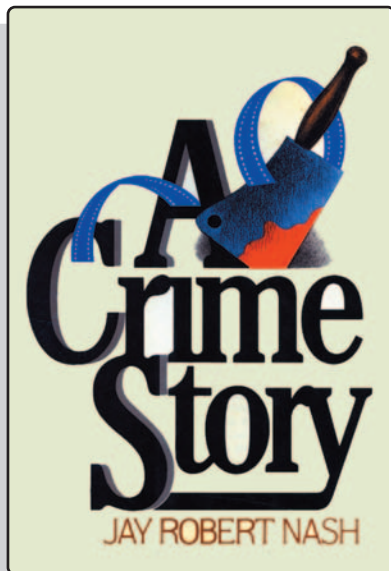
—Henry Scarupa, Baltimore *Sun*

“Nash has come up with sensational allegations and documents his case history well.”

—Jack Pement, Portland *Journal*

“A fantastic story of power and politics.”

—El Paso *Times*



Hustlers and Conmen: An Anecdotal History of the Confidence Man and His Games, published by M. Evans, New York, 1976.

Critical acclaim for *Hustlers and Conmen*:

“Nash is one of the city’s [Chicago] best writers and most tireless researchers and this book is even more fun to read than his earlier *Bloodletters* and *Badmen*, the encyclopedia of famous criminals. He has brought back to life rogues who make ‘The Sting’ look like an April Fool’s Day caper.”

—Pulitzer Prize Winner Mike Royko, Chicago *Daily News*

“Hustlers and Conmen is endlessly fascinating ... Give it a single ten-minute sitting and you’ll be hooked. You won’t be able to set it down.”

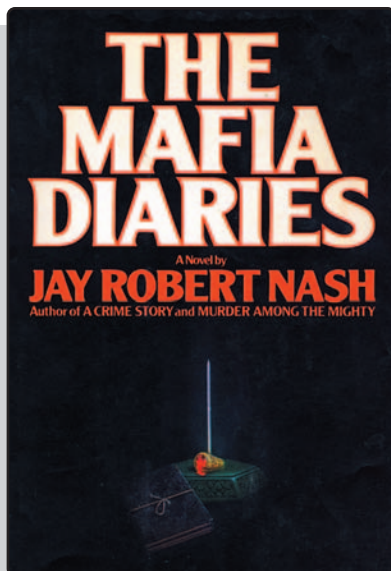
—Chicago *Sun-Times*

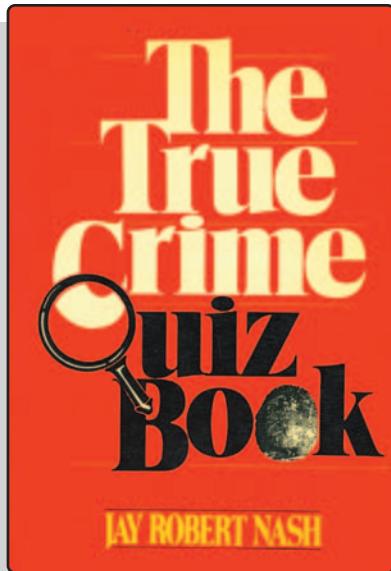
“It’s a good book, and it’s a complete book and it’s a fun-to-read book.”

—Chicago *Magazine*

“The subject is universally and timelessly enthralling.”

—*Esquire Magazine*





"Full of good reading. This book has details on every con except Kublai Khan and the exploits of the great swindlers offer delicious thrills to us taxpayers."

—New York Times

"Marvelously entertaining ... a guided tour into the twilight world in which glib and greedy con artists bilk greedy but naive opportunists ... it's first-rate entertainment."

—Judson Hand, *New York Daily News*

"An entertainingly written book which will enhance any true crime collection."

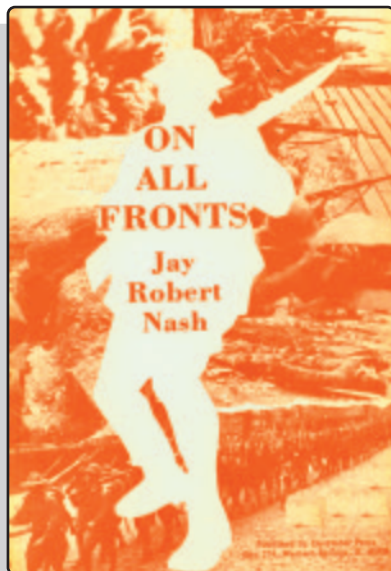
—Library Journal

"This testimony to the ingenuity of con artists and the gullibility of suckers is a fast-moving and breezy survey of the subject with never a dull moment."

—Publishers Weekly

"After reading Mr. Nash's excellent reporting on the various ways in which the plots and plans are carried through, you ask yourself: Would I really be that gullible? Don't bet you won't."

—Best Sellers



"It's impossible not to be impressed by his thoroughness, which covers 'scams' ranging from a dime to \$750 million, from mail-order flim flams to international stock swindles, from victimizing the impoverished to toppling governments. It's told in terms of the personalities involved, making it all readable. There's also a good glossary, bibliography, index and a 'chronology of con' from 1800 to 1975."

—Buffalo News

"This book makes gleeful reading."

—Berkeley (Calif.) Gazette

"Hustlers and Conmen is probably the last word on its subject—more complete than any before."

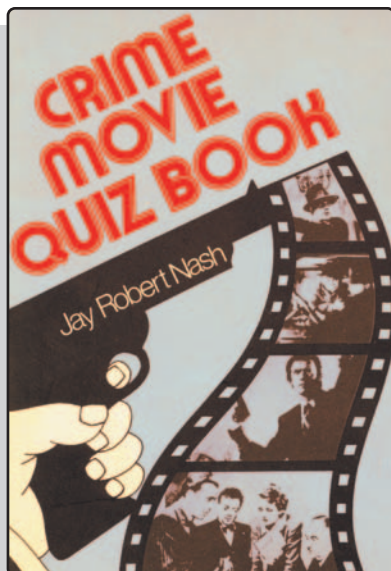
—Los Angeles Free Press

"A breezy chronicle of men and women on the grift—from gentle grafters to hard-bit-ten wheeler-dealers."

—Los Angeles Times

"A thoroughly engrossing account of flimflamming that leaves you wondering about the mental competence of the average citizen."

—Chicago Tribune



"A highly enjoyable book with hundreds of short, sharp sketches of master con artists, going back to the early 18th century."

—Atlanta Constitution

"Mr. Nash's 'anecdotal history' makes delightful reading—a veritable police blotter collection of the Ponzis, 'Yellow Kid' Weil, Cassie Chadwick, Ivar Kreuger and many others who utilize wile and wit to con everyone from housewives to heads of state."

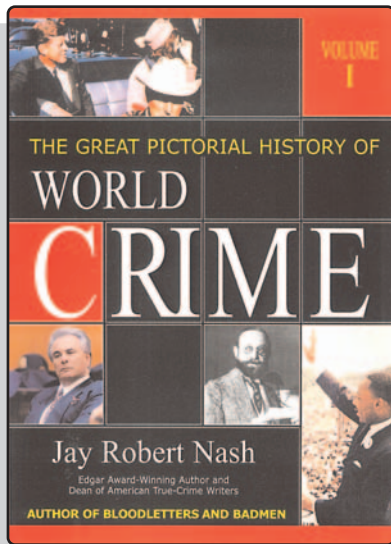
—Ralph Hollenbeck, *Parade of Books*

"Jay Robert Nash has scored again with a truly monumental expose of the methods by which the wily con men (and women) have been separating the gullible mark from his mazuma since way back, as early as 1800."

—Kansas City Star

"In this well-illustrated book packed with entertaining details, Jay Robert Nash tells the stories of many of these swindlers."

—Dallas News



"This is a fascinating 'anecdotal history' of the confidence man and his heady assortment of bilks, flimflams and scams."

—Lehigh Valley (Pa.) *Labor Herald*

"Nash's latest plunge into the history of crime ... is one of those can't miss book ideas that fascinate ... the book is worth reading for its many amusing tales and for the infinitely and often preposterously imaginative schemes hustlers have cooked up in their relentless pursuit of the easy dollar."

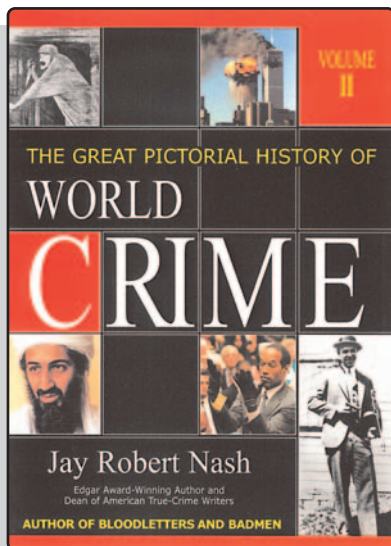
—Cincinnati *Enquirer*

"It's great entertainment."

—*The Province* (Vancouver, B.C.)

"Author Nash, a specialist in writing about crimes and those who commit them, has reached far back into history to set the stage for the recounting of fantastic stories of smooth crooks who have been part of life ever since records were kept ... a veritable encyclopedia of fascinating yarns about pyramiding schemes that bilked millions out of millions ... A reading of *Hustlers and Conmen* might some day save somebody more than a few bucks."

—Harmon Bellamy, *Jewish Weekly*



"A lot of entertaining reading. A glossary of con terms and phrases adds to the book's relish."

—Des Moines (Ia.) *Tribune*

"This delightful book ... concentrates on some of the most famous and entertaining scams and the most outrageous, notorious and clever slicksters ever known."

—Philadelphia *Inquirer*

"Jay Robert Nash, probably the most prolific crime writer in the country, does the gullible a service by exposing the schemes and scams by which the conmen separate the marks from their money. He does the reader a service by writing in a snappy style that rivets your attention from the opening paragraph."

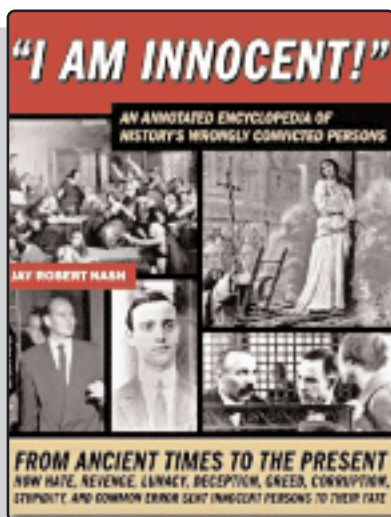
—David Allen, Newport News (Va.) *Press*

"An amusing collection of some of America's most avaricious con men."

—Copley News Service

"Nash's book is an education. It never moralizes, yet matter-of-factly warns us with entertaining stories."

—Colorado Springs (Col.) *Sun*



"Jay Robert Nash, who has written more on crime and criminals than any other author, dead or alive, has come up with another fascinating volume, *Hustlers and Conmen*."

—Sid Ascher, *Night Life in Chicago*

"Read it and you'll never again sign anything, not even a greeting card, without reading it or send in for anything that risks even a nickel in front money."

—Clarence Petersen, Chicago *Tribune*

Darkest Hours, A Narrative Encyclopedia of Worldwide Disasters from Ancient Times to the Present, published by Nelson-Hall, Chicago, 1976. The American Library Association named DARKEST HOURS as a "Best Reference Work" for 1976.

Critical acclaim for *Darkest Hours*:

"Darkest Hours is the ne plus ultra of the big publishing trend ... on history's disasters ... other books pale before the breadth of Darkest Hours. It is no mean book, carpentered just to make a dollar. The laborious and careful research that went into it is nothing short of awesome. The result is a volume no reference library should be without ... particularly valuable is a 150-page appendix."

—Chicago *Daily News*

"Readers will appreciate having anecdotal narrations of major disasters assembled in a single source. Darkest Hours will undoubtedly save much time in searching for answers to the frequent queries about these fascinating horrific events. Almost any library can put this book to good use. The main text (629 pages) covers about 900 disasters listed in alphabetical order, many by place-name ... There are 14 appendixes in which disasters are listed in chronological order ... Daggers are used to indicate those for which there is an article in the main text. Dates of events range from the flood of 2400 B.C. (Egyptian famine) to December 25, 1975 (mine explosion at the Chasnalab colliery in the Dhampad region of India). For each disaster noted in the appendixes, the date, location, number of deaths caused, and a one or two-line description are provided. Immediately preceding the index is a Bibliography of approximately 2,000 reference sources consulted by the author. It begins with a two-part list of books and periodicals, bulletins, pamphlets, papers, reports on disasters in general ... A sixteen-page index refers to material in the main text. It is helpful chiefly because it groups together all floods, hurricanes, volcanoes, and ships which are described and cites persons, business firms, buildings and places within the articles."

—*Booklist*

"Nash is a master researcher, who brings to life fascinating accounts of incredible courage and frequent cowardice ... Nash provides a thorough, all-encompassing and exact chronology of the world's major disasters, with over 400 illustrations. No mere dry catalog listing of events."

—*C.S.P. World News*

"As an overview of calamity, it is without parallel."

—Good Books, syndicated column

"As a reference work it is singular. Far more than a catalog of melancholy statistics, it is filled with eye-witness accounts of various calamities and with recitations of heroic acts and cowardly acts, all related in low key ... Nash has good credentials as both researcher and author."

—*Oregon Journal*

"The range of Jay Robert Nash's work is tremendous—from the eruptions of Vesuvius to the sinking of the Titanic ... The scope, appendices and index make this voluminous work valuable for reference, and the vivid eye-witness accounts make fascinating reading."

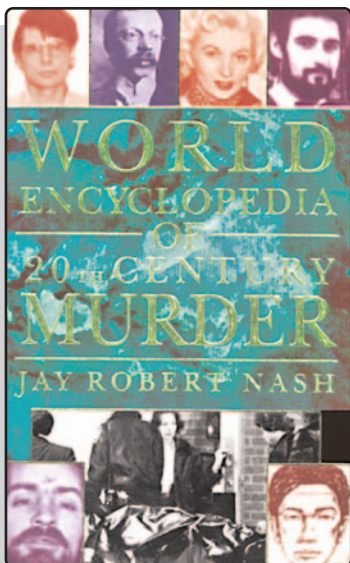
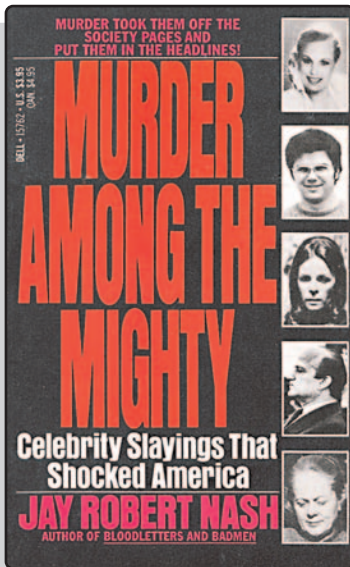
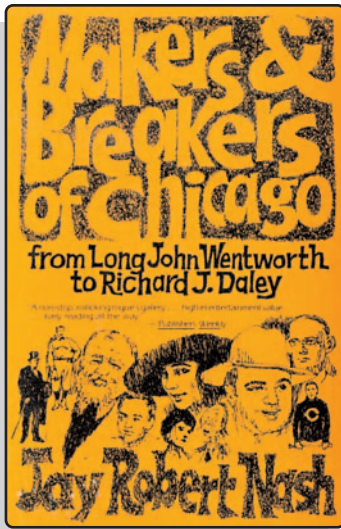
—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

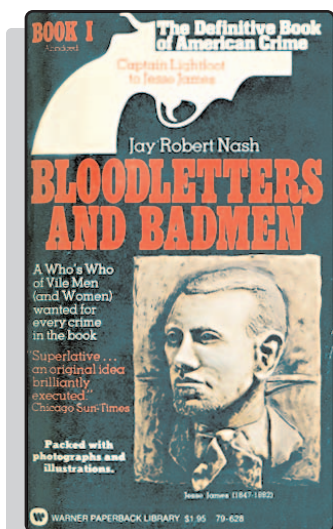
"Never before has so much drama been crammed into 812 pages. Here we have just what the enthusiast needs—a well-illustrated compilation of disasters, put together with such helpful back-of-the-book additions as 14 major categories arranged by dates to help you look up a particular air crash, avalanche, earthquake, fire or flood. In addition, the encyclopedia has a good bibliography and superb index. The whole work is well organized."

—*Denver Post*

"Jay Robert Nash has produced an exhaustive catalog of the world's bad news, and he has written it in a compelling manner ... Although painstaking research is evident in the book (the bibliography takes 20 pages), the emphasis is on the narrative, the personal stories of the disasters ... In describing and documenting more than 900 disasters, Nash has stuck closely to his subject: the human being at his best and his worst, his most helpless and most hopeful."

—Chicago *Sun-Times*





"The photos are extraordinary, the facts are horrifying, and the book is fascinating from cover to cover."

—Hudson (MA) *Daily Mail*

"The topic is intrinsically fascinating, and the newsy style makes for good browsing."

—*Library Journal*

"The fascination of disasters for the reading public may be a fertile subject for psychiatric analysis, but in the meantime this encyclopedic narrative provides harrowing details of thousands of them."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"A banquet of colorful stories about people experiencing catastrophic events."

—*American Libraries*

"Rarely does a fresh, interesting, innovative reference work appear on the market. However, *Darkest Hours* is just such a work. Its 812 pages are filled with stories that are interesting on one hand, yet frightening on the other. *Darkest Hours* recounts in narrative style thousands of disasters that have occurred from ancient times to the present. Fires, earthquakes, floods, crashes, and other calamities are narrated in readable articles of varying length. Background details are supplied where necessary. Personalities and situations are painted in such a way that the reader almost feels that he is present at the scene. Sketches and photographs add reality to the often horrifying details. No other reference work on the market gathers similar information ... And the way information is presented helps the user empathize with those who experienced the disaster. A well-written preface sets the tone for the volume. Addenda of chronological tables arranged by type of disasters (e.g., 'Major Air Crashes') makes the work valuable for ready reference. A comprehensive bibliography supplies materials for further reading ... the index is full and accurate ... the work is well-constructed and is quite usable in both library reference collections and personal libraries."

—American Reference Book Association

"Here you will find narrative accounts of the aftermath of the San Francisco earthquake that makes New York's blackout riots look like kid stuff."

—*New York Post*

"Mr. Nash takes great care to set a proper tone for each impending catastrophe."

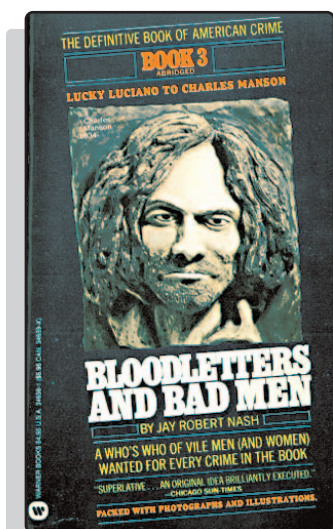
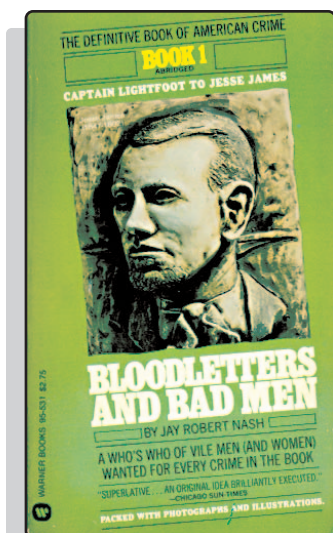
—*Wall Street Journal*

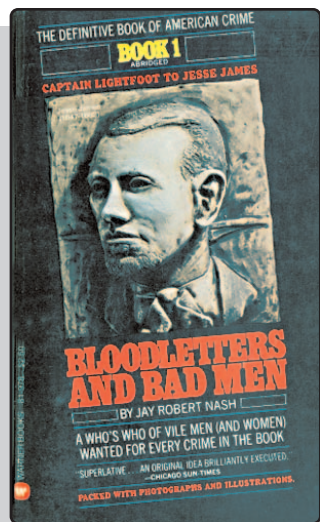
"More than 860 disasters are treated at considerable length, while the salient facts of thousands of others are provided. The 400 illustrations, from both ancient and modern sources, avoid sensationalism and are less gory than might be expected. Each major story has been distilled from many sources. For example, the one about the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 has been written from 150 references ... Avalanches, storms, mine explosions, railway accidents, volcanic eruptions, plane crashes, fires and floods—all are meticulously recorded and in the longer accounts are related in human rather than statistical terms."

—*Kansas City Star*

"Certainly this massive book—800 plus double-column pages—is not one to be summarized. Rather, its hundreds of entries and illustrations, full appendices and bibliography of 2,000 items make it a solid reference work and an excellent source of interesting reading."

—Lee Milazzo, Director of Archives, SMU, writing in the *Dallas Morning News*





Among the Missing: An Anecdotal History of Missing Persons from 1800 to the Present, published by Simon and Schuster, New York, 1978.

Critical acclaim for *Among the Missing*:

“In this book crime expert and columnist Nash has written an engrossing real-life thriller with a cast of hundreds.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Jay Robert Nash’s *Among the Missing* is a delight.”

—Mike Royko, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“Fact beyond the pale and imagination of fiction. Fascinating.”

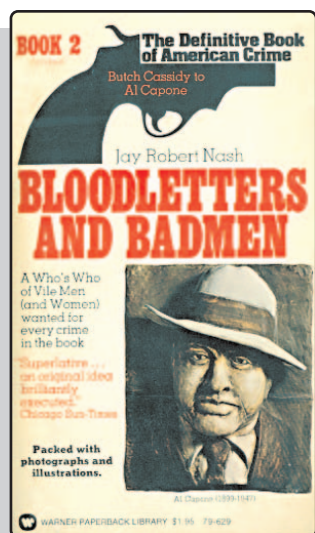
—Mike LaVelle, *Chicago Tribune*

“Jay Robert Nash has composed a spellbinding anthology of people who went bump in the night.”

—Jack Lesar, UPI

“Among the Missing is another demonstration of Jay Robert Nash’s thoroughness in research and his skill in investing his findings with pulsating flesh and blood. He has exhumed many mysterious tales I had half forgotten and made them excitingly real and immediate in tone ... All in all, an irresistible package of information and entertainment.”

—Jack Conroy, syndicated columnist



A Crime Story (a novel), published in 1980 by Delacorte Press, New York, 1980:

Critical acclaim for *A Crime Story*:

“Nash’s characters and the pace of this novel hark back to that golden, tough-guy era of detective fiction ... *A Crime Story* is a treat.”

—*People Magazine*

“Jay Robert Nash has finally written the book that all his fans are waiting for.”

—*Chicago Magazine*

“Nash gives us a murder mystery which is an attention-getter-and-keeper right from the beginning to the end.”

—*West Coast Review of Books*

“The basic plot is Chanderlesque, but it is handled with such originality that it makes fresh and exciting reading. Nash is a first-rate storyteller.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Nash weaves a fast-paced spellbinder that is just the right blend of rock ’em-sock ’em action and clever deductions.”

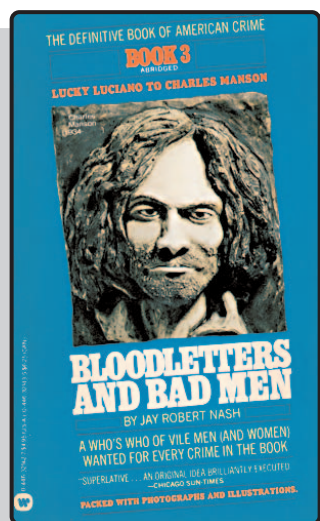
—Jack Lesar, UPI

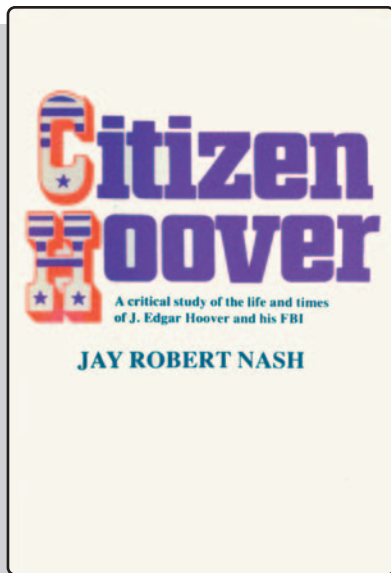
“Crime buffs will enjoy trying to put the puzzle of this murder mystery together. Jay Robert Nash has written a sizzling crime thriller.”

—Vincent Bugliosi
co-author of *Helter Skelter*

“A real treat for those readers who like pace, gusto, terse dialogue, and fast action in their stories.”

—Harry Mark Petrakis
author of *A Dream of Kings*





"A unique blend of an '80s story steeped in the '30s, a literary alchemy which makes you wonder if Dashiell Hammett's natural heir isn't alive and well, chained to a smoking typewriter in Chicago."

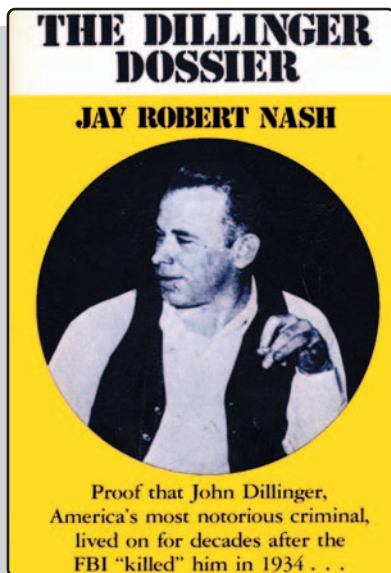
—Thomas Gifford
author of *Hollywood Gothic*

"Jay Robert Nash probably knows more about the American crime scene than anyone living, and I am happy that he has now turned his considerable talent to mystery writing. In *A Crime Story* he has created a new breed of high-class mystery."

—Clark Howard
author of *Zebra*

"Nash has drawn on a lifelong fascination with the outer edges of the culture along with a sense of the street to create a quick-witted, cynical columnist turned detective—who promises to be with us for some time."

—Mike Grey
author of *The China Syndrome*



Encyclopedia of Western Lawmen & Outlaws, published by Paragon Books, New York, 1992.

"The most extensive listing of outlaws and lawmen of the Wild West ever compiled. The narrative is well done, often with bits of dialogue taken from contemporary sources."

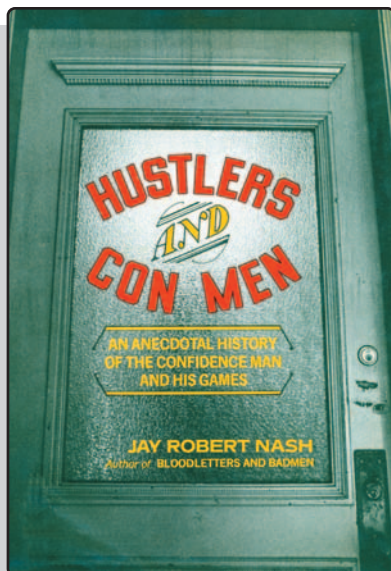
—Booklist

"The volume covers the greater-and-lesser-known white hats and black hats of the Wild West. Though the text is illustrated with photographs and drawings throughout, there is also a separate section of photos of the most famous people and places."

—Library Journal

"The Edgar-Award-winning author of the unparalleled *Encyclopedia of World Crime* turns his authoritative eye to the American West in this vast catalog of the outlaws of the new frontier and the courageous lawmen who faced them."

—Ingram



World Encyclopedia of 20th Century Murder, published by Paragon, New York, 1992.

"In some 1,000 alphabetical entries and more than 400 photographs and illustrations, Nash chronicles the actions and motivations of this century's most brutal murderers, developing a profile of each that ranges in length from a few paragraphs to over 15 pages."

—Book News, Inc.

"A voluminous true crime reference presents a sociologically informative portrait of the men and women who kill and with more than one thousand alphabetical entries highlighted with photographs and illustrations."

—Ingram

World Encyclopedia of Organized Crime, published by Paragon, New York, 1992.

"This book is unique and is recommended for libraries with strong organized crime collections."

—Library Journal