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

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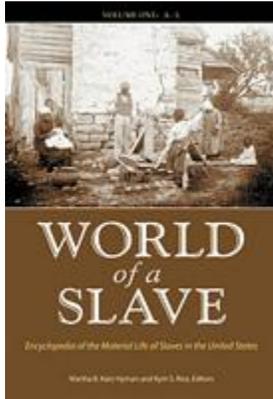
*World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the
Material Life of Slaves in the United States*

Edited by Martha B. Katz-Hyman and Kym S. Rice

ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press, Hardcover (two volumes)

700 pp., ISBN-13: 978-031334942, 2010.

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.