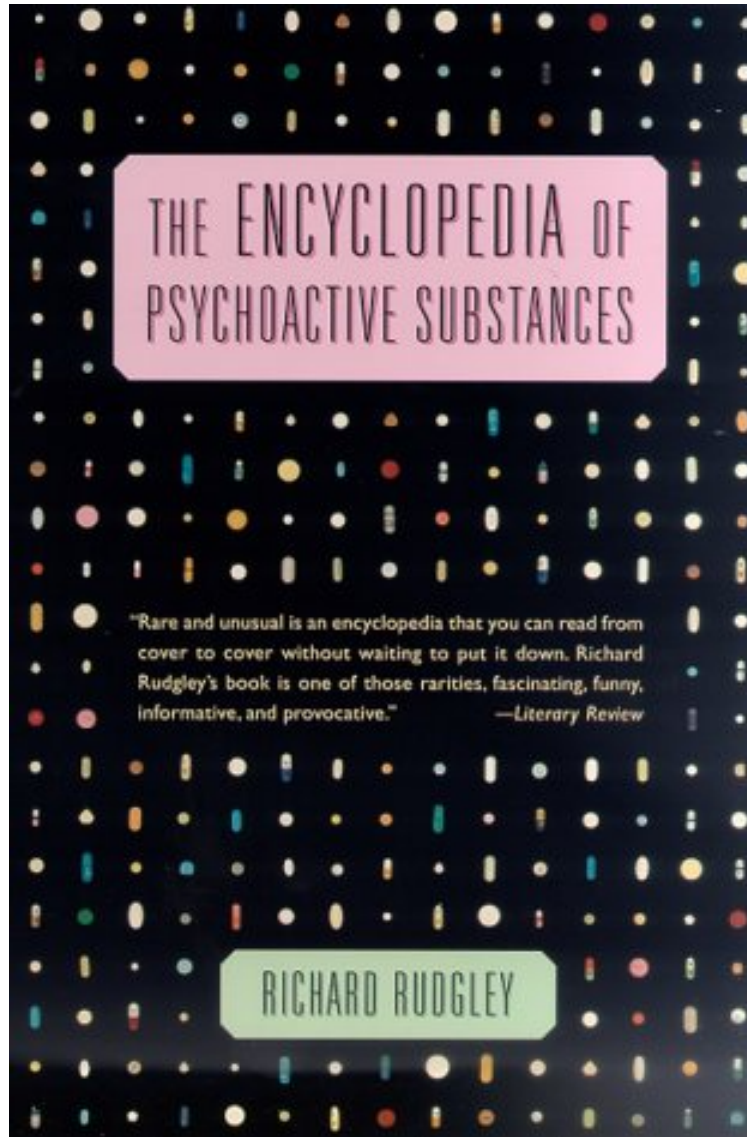


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The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Substances

Richard Rudgley

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Richard Rudgley : The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Substances before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Substances:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Just a brief history, no real information.By JasonWhile the book does cover a lot of substances, it doesn't really tell you about the substances themselves. What it gives you is a very brief description and a few paragraphs on its history. There is very little to no info on how there taken(aside from "it's smoked" or it's eaten"), how much is taken, or what the effects are past a one or maybe two sentence

description. Maybe it was an interesting book in the 90's but it is greatly lacking in both knowledge and substance. The thing that upset me the most is the fact that everything in the book is just a compilation of copied and regurgitated basic information. It reads like someone made a list of substances, copied a few paragraphs, and called it a book. It doesn't seem like the author has any real knowledge or wisdom about the subject or that he has even tried any psychoactive substances. 11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Great Encyclopedia By A Customer Takes a look at not only common drugs, plants, and animals, yes animals, used for psychoactive experiences, but more importantly, it gives a very impressive view of obscure substances that most other 'drug encyclopedias', that cost about the same price or more, don't even mention. This is the book to get if you want to learn more about the substances that you don't see in the news everyday, but in many cases have been used for hundreds, if not thousands of years. It looks at the more common drugs used in society today (LSD, Ecstasy, Marijuana, etc.) but its real value is that of a gap filler in most people's drug knowledge.

For all those who might like to believe that drug use has been relegated to the suburban rec rooms and ghetto crack houses of the late twentieth century, The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Substances offers shocking, yet thoroughly enlightening evidence to the contrary. In fact, from Neolithic man to Queen Victoria, humans have abused all sorts of drugs in the name of religion, tradition, and recreation, including such "controlled substances" as chocolate, lettuce, and toads. From glue-sniffing to LSD to kava, The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Substances provides the first reliable, comprehensive exploration of this fascinating and controversial topic. With over one hundred entries, acclaimed author Richard Rudgley covers not only the chemical and botanical background of each substance, but its physiological and psychological effect on the user. Of particular value is Rudgley's emphasis on the historical and cultural role of these mind-altering substances. Impeccably researched and hugely entertaining, The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Substances will appeal to anyone interested in one of the most misunderstood and yet also most widespread of human activities - the chemical quest for an altered state of consciousness.

A perfect psychonaut's guide to a strange galaxy ... a brilliant index to the weird and wonderful and a timely reminder that ours is not an unusually reckless age * FRANK * A gold-leaf reference book * ATTITUDE * Rare and unusual is an encyclopaedia that you can read from cover to cover without wanting to put it down ... Richard Rudgley's book is one of those rarities ... fascinating, funny, informative and provocative * LITERARY REVIEW * Fascinating ... Suddenly, clubland seems tame * ESQUIRE * Will deeply satisfy the curious ... impressive * Nicholas Lezard, MODERN REVIEW * This really is a fun read ... there are great little bits of information, such as the one about Eton schoolboys being flogged in the 17th century if they forgot to bring their tobacco pipes to school * Will Self, NEW STATESMAN * Formidable ... Rudgley's curiosity, distilled concentration, inter-disciplinary connectiveness, deadpan humour, prodigious reading, magpie eclecticism and anecdotal ease are all massively appealing * EVENING STANDARD * A thorough and entertaining reference text * NEW SCIENTIST * a enjoyable anthology of drugs, from opium and LSD to giraffe livers. * MARIE CLAIRE * ... tobacco, ground beetles, glue, coffee, Prozac and so on ... Rudgley concentrates with startling results, on the history of the use of such substances * GUARDIAN * Fascinating * LOADED * About the Author Richard Rudgley studied social anthropology and religious studies at the University of London, and went on to study ethnology and prehistory at Oxford. He is currently based at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, undertaking research into the prehistoric and ancient use of psychoactive plants. In 1991 he became the first winner of the British Museum Prometheus Award, which resulted in the publication of his first book, The Alchemy of Culture: Intoxicants in Society. He is married with a daughter and a son and divides most of his time between London and Oxford.