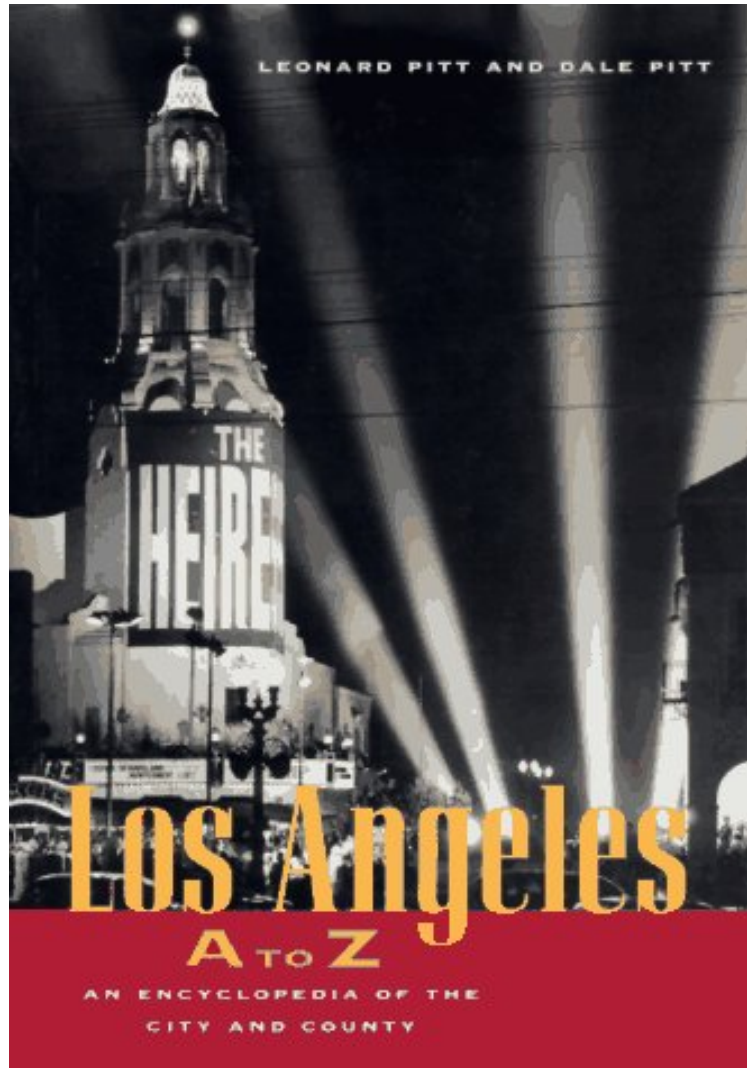


## Los Angeles A to Z: An Encyclopedia of the City and County

*Leonard Pitt, Dale Pitt*

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**Leonard Pitt, Dale Pitt : Los Angeles A to Z: An Encyclopedia of the City and County** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Los Angeles A to Z: An Encyclopedia of the City and County:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outdated and overpriced By Chuck C Actually the book is informative but I should have looked closer at the details of the book. All the information in this book ends in 1997. It is, to say the least, very outdated. The reason I ordered it was because it was featured in the Sunday LA Times the week before. It's my fault for not checking the details. The 2 stars is because the information in the book was outdated and it really should NOT have been offered for sale until it was updated at least through 2014. 0 of 2 people found the

following review helpful. Less than expected. Went to Goodwill within a couple of weeks  
By G. Sitton Too much emphasis on political this, that, and the other thing, while ignoring two centuries of interesting people. Big disappointment. More like 'Los Angeles A to Z' of 1 person found the following review helpful. I kept it instead because I liked it so much  
By John B. I originally bought the book to give to my mother. I kept it instead because I liked it so much. As a native Angeleno, I liked having short entries on different aspects of the city. It's a quick source. If I want more information, I'd look online, but this is concise and from what I have read of it, accurate, too.

Few cities captivate the imagination as does Los Angeles. It is the locus of spectaculars: movies, earthquakes, freeways, riots, sunsets. In this fascinating desk reference, Leonard and Dale Pitt have gathered a sweeping array of information on the City of Angels. Bolstering their historical and humanistic approach with scientific and technical information, the Pitts include alphabetically arranged entries on history, geography, automobile culture, sports, movies, current events, architecture, flora, fauna, scandals, biography, the arts, politics, neighborhoods, and ethnic, racial, and religious groups. Quotations throughout provide provocative and amusing tidbits about the city that has been called "the fulfillment of the American Dream." Copiously illustrated and wonderfully anecdotal, this is a book for anyone with a question, large or small, about Los Angeles. "It's a great place to live, but I wouldn't want to visit there." Mark Twain "At heart, Los Angeles is a vast cross-section of the Corn Belt set down incongruously in a Maxfield Parrish setting." Irwin S. Cobb "Hollywood is wonderful. Anyone who doesn't like it is either crazy or sober." Raymond Chandler "Great weather and automobiles." Jamal Wilkes

.com People complain that Los Angeles is chaos, a massive tangle of freeways and boulevards, gangs, and movie stars. Leonard and Dale Pitt bring organization to the confusion with an encyclopedia that runs from Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem to Zuma County Beach, covering the people, places, events, and icons that make up the city and county of Los Angeles. The famous neighborhoods of Hollywood and Watts are there, as are the lesser-known Winnetka and El Sereno. There are entries on when and where the smog began, how the movie industry was established, which trees are native, and just who the Black Dahlia was. With appendices covering chronology, the 1990 census, and government organizations, Los Angeles A to Z is an exceptionally well-done resource, and a welcome addition to the shelves of any Los Angelesophile, scholar, or visitor who seeks a self-guided tour. From Library Journal One of the major cities of the world finally gets a one-volume encyclopedia. As slippery as Los Angeles is to define? some call it 100 suburbs in search of a city? Leonard Pitt (emeritus, history, California State Univ., Northridge) and brother Dale, a freelance writer and indexer, have managed to get a competent grip on the history and lifestyle of the oft-ridiculed, always-envied city. Scholars will have to search long and hard to find anything worthwhile missing from this compendium. The entries range from a few paragraphs (Engine House #18, O.J. Simpson) to in-depth articles filled with valuable statistics and general information. The text is liberally sprinkled with illustrations and humorous quotes about the city, and the entire work is like a leisurely stroll through the life and times of this fascinating place. Even if your library isn't located anywhere near LaLa Land, seriously consider purchasing this compelling reference work for all of your patrons who will eventually end up visiting or even relocating there. ? Joseph L. Carlson, Vandenberg Air Force Base Lib., Cal. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. The small cities on the Los Angeles plain were made by circumstance: the siting of a sewage plant, a payoff to a railroad official or a vision by a Mormon prophet. There are 88 cities in Los Angeles County. Their stories are told briefly and with enormous grace (after enormous scholarship) by Leonard and Dale Pitt in Los Angeles A to Z, along with significant articles on L.A.'s ethnic communities, governmental institutions, culture, history and politics. The effects of the circumstances reported by the Pitts are the burden of living here; they are the parts of our story we erase at our peril.... They resist conversion into a schema.... -- Los Angeles Times Sunday Book , D. J. Waldie