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Lanham, MD: Scarecrow

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698. Allen, E. John B. **Historical Dictionary of Skiing**. Lanham, Md., Scarecrow, 2012. 347p. index. (Historical Dictionaries of Sports). \$90.00. ISBN 13: 978-0-8108-6802-1; 978-0-8108-7977-5 (e-book).

The *Historical Dictionary of Skiing* is the ninth book in the Historical Dictionaries of Sports series by Scarecrow Press. The author, E. John B. Allen, has written 9 books on skiing, along with 60 articles and encyclopedia entries. The structure is similar to other dictionaries in the series. A 15-page chronology covers the key discoveries, developments, and events of skiing from its earliest times to 2018. Following is a history of the sport, covering both early and modern history, along with the organization of clubs and national groups, equipment development, and both competitive and recreational skiing. The bulk of the book includes over 200 pages of entries on key people, events, organizations, competitions, equipment, and technical terms. Most entries are short (two to three per page), while the longer ones are a page or more. Approximately one-third of the book is lists of award winners for Nordic and Alpine skiing across a variety of events. Other events include speed skiing and the ski flying World Cup, along with esoteric information like a ski museums throughout the world. Particularly interesting is the 25-page bibliography, organized by subjects and covering general, national, regional and topical histories, including the Olympics, exploration and mountaineering, biographies, and more. As with other books in the series, this one is a tough sell. The entries are not lengthy enough for library patrons researching skiing topics, while the price is fairly high (\$90) for serious fans of the sport.—**Kevin McDonough**