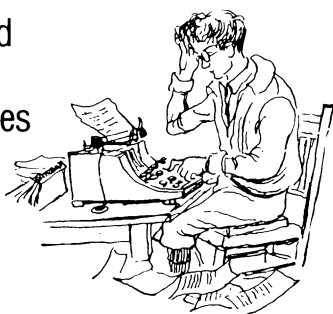


# THE SOURCE

edited  
and compiled  
by  
David J. Jones



## Bits of crits

I receive a lot of bibliographies of bibliographies and directories of directories — or perhaps it just seems like a lot. Worthy publications, many of them. But en masse, unexciting. Occasionally there are variations, such as indexes to guides, about which I can be intrigued, if not actually enthusiastic.

Such a creature is Alan R. Weiner and Spencer Means' *Literary criticism index*, published last year by Scarecrow. This work, as its subtitle would tell you, if it had a subtitle, is an index to some of the myriad bibliographies and checklists which contain references to critical assessments of individual literary works. Eighty-six such checklists or information guides have been scanned for this work. All 86 bear American imprints, but coverage is not restricted to American writers, nor just anglophones. The Gorkys, Grasses, Grillparzers and Grimmelshausens are there too. There's even a brace of works on Ozlit indexed: A. Grove Day's useful *Modern Australian prose* (Gale, 1980) and Barry G. Andrew's essential *Australian literature to 1900* (Gale, also 1980). You look up your author in *Literary criticism index*, identify the work you are interested in (arranged in abc order under author) and note the coded page or item reference. Then you look up what the code means, and see if you have the source in your library (or somebody else's). Sourcebook in hand, you are then able to trace further references and, in some at least of the sourcebooks, get an inkling from an annotation. So don't expect a one step process when you use this book — it doesn't, nor was it designed to work that way.

But if you have and make use of a large conglomeration of information guides in literature (the *Gale Guide to information sources* series, for example, which is represented by 29 titles here), you may find this a time saver. In these days of plummeting dollars, you may well find yourself sinking your US\$49.50 into something other than this work, well-produced and well-intentioned though it is.

Alan R. Weiner and Spencer Means' *Literary criticism index* was published in 1984 by Scarecrow Press. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Pty Ltd. (ISBN 0 8108 1694 6)

## Farewell and hail

I mourn the passing of *Review*. The last issue of this splendid, lively, informative, professional review journal, primarily for school librarians but with a much wider potential audience which will never know what it missed, appeared last December.

Its publisher, the School Libraries Branch of the Education Department of South Australia has also undergone a transformation — it is now the Library Resource Development Unit. This Unit is the publisher of a less ambitious and strictly no frills newsletter which is nonetheless worthy of remark outside the circle of school librarians in its home State. There is local news, of course, but also general notes on resources, ideas for activities in the school library and elsewhere, feature articles and, yes, reviews of children's books.

The newsletter, straining under the title *LINES* (Library information network exchange services), is published six times per year by the Library Resource Development Unit, Education Department of South Australia, Box 1152, GPO, Adelaide, SA 5001. (ISSN 0815-1547) Incidentally back issues of *Review* can still be obtained from the Information Office, Education Department.

Meanwhile in New South Wales, the Library Services Materials Assessment Unit continues to produce *Scan*, a title which, mercifully, isn't short for anything. *Scan*, now in its fourth year, is a 'bulletin of resource information for all teachers' with reviews — some lengthy, all evaluative — news, articles, references to professional reading and much more.

Subscriptions to *Scan*, which appears five times per year, cost \$20.00 and should be sent to the Subscriptions Section, Government Printing Office, Harris Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007. (ISSN 0726-4127)

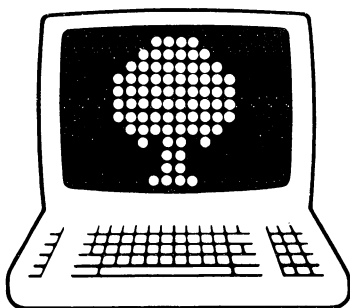
## From Pyramids to Post-Modernism

Architects have little excuse for not being well-grounded in the history of their profession. The products of their forebears are of more than historical interest — there is a vocabulary upon which to draw, of shapes and forms, of textures, expressions and impressions. The history of architecture plays no small part in architectural education, and the relevant literature is commensurately extensive.

In *Architecture: a bibliographic guide to basic reference works, histories and handbooks*, Donald L. Ehresmann attempts to harness the most helpful of the mass. He has selected 1359 items dealing with architecture of all ages and climes, from the megaliths of prehistory to the monoliths of the present, from the clichés of the Chicago School to the leitmotifs of Le Corbusier (misspelt from time to time). There are separate sections for general histories, surveys of particular building types, studies by period and region, and general architectural reference works. There are good and frequently evaluative annotations ('impressive, old, scholarly, important, detailed, pioneering' are all part of Ehresmann's vocabulary). There is excellent coverage of non-English language materials.

Australia does not fare particularly well, being represented by only four items — and with two of these the most recent editions are not mentioned. Local architectural historians will obviously need to go further afield for their studies of the indigenous products (starting perhaps with the relevant parts of Ray Choate's excellent *A guide to sources of information on the arts in Australia* and Wilma Radford's *Guide to Australian reference books: humanities*). After all, how international can a bibliographic guide be before it becomes unmanageable? I am prepared to recommend Donald L. Ehresmann's *Architecture: a bibliographic guide to basic reference works, histories and handbooks*. It was published last year by Libraries Unlimited and costs US\$55.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Pty Ltd. (ISBN 0 87287 394 3)

Contributions to *InCite* are welcomed. News items should be around 200 words, major articles no more than 1000 words. Send to Brenda Pittard, Editor, *InCite*, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007.



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