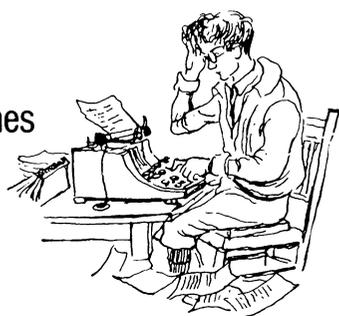


# THE SOURCE

by  
David J. Jones



## Mr Fraser, I presume

Not all statesmen and women carry their eponymous year book around with them when venturing abroad. American diplomats, to take just one group of peripatetics, will probably have a few Department of State country reports in their bags. These reports, updated reasonably regularly, succinct without being kimpy, form the basis of a regular compilation from Gale Research, *Countries of the world and their leaders yearbook*.

The 1985 edition of this two-volume work has just landed, heavily, on my desk. 168 countries of the world are covered, with basic information on population, government, economy, geography, history, foreign relations, political conditions. There are lists of government officials around the world, compiled by the Central Intelligence Agency, world climate information, health information, visa requirements, tips for the (American) traveller, maps and black-and-white illustrations. The latest State Department reports are reprinted, and these are, helpfully, dated. The up-to-dateness of some of the reports is perhaps suggestive of the Department's preoccupations: that on Grenada is dated February 1984; Australia is covered by an April 1982 report, with Mr J. Malcolm Fraser still holding the reins. A footnote arns, accurately, that there may have been readership changes since the date of this entry, and the reader is referred to the CIA's May 1984 list reprinted in volume one, which has the current incumbent dutifully recorded.

I don't know the practicalities of incorporating the more up-to-date information in the body of the work, but it is a bit of a nuisance

having to look in two places — but at least the reader is given adequate warning. And of course you wouldn't accept any printed reference work as gospel in the quicksands of politics anyway. Useful if you hold *The Europa year book* and *The Statesman's year-book* and still need another general survey with a diplomatic/tourist viewpoint.

*Countries of the world and their leaders yearbook 1985* was published in 1984 by Gale Research. It costs US\$95.00 for the two-volume set and is available locally from the James Bennett Group. (ISSN 0196-2809; ISBN 0 8103 1642 0)

## Supped full with horrors

The horror film is a popular genre. Filmmakers realised early on that a darkened theatre with flickering images and suitable Wurlitzer or otherwise-generated mood music produced a splendid milieu for scaring audiences out of their pants but into their seats. Nowadays the horror movie easily outnumbers other types in the production stakes, and keeping track of productions is a challenge.

Scarecrow Press has grasped this challenge with Donald C. Willis' *Horror and science fiction films*, the third volume of which was published last year. This work provides 'complete-as-possible coverage' of releases in 1982, 1983 as well as end of the year 1981 releases. There is also a selection of retrospective entries, mainly from the 1950s. Most of the 760 films listed are critically annotated, and basic production information is provided for all entries. Willis' words are more than the bland comments we expect from a film-presenter. Read them before you buy 'Kung Fu from beyond the grave' for your film study collection, or spend a valuable 90 minutes watching 'Jekyll and Hyde . . . together again' (a film which depicts Robert Louis Stephenson, appropriately, turning in his grave).

Donald C. Willis' *Horror and science fiction films III* was published by Scarecrow in 1984 and costs US\$25.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Pty Ltd. (ISBN 0 8108 1723 3)

If you want reassurance that 'Hooper's disposal of cyclical thinking in "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre"'s' apocalypticism is the refusal of belief in a theory that allows for the possibility of change', draw comfort from another horror publication from Scarecrow.

*Planks of reason: essays on the horror film* contains 21 essays on films from the early days

of horror to the most recent gashlines, examined from a number of viewpoints. General characteristics, such as faith, idolatry, sexuality, aesthetics, nationalism are discussed, as well as a number of individual films. There is a useful bibliography and a good index. Even if this kind of film gives you the horrors, this book may at least help explain why.

*Planks of reason*, edited by Barry Keith Grant, was also published by Scarecrow last year, at US\$27.50. Bennetts supplied this review copy too. (ISBN 0 8108 1713 6)

## For caring philosophers

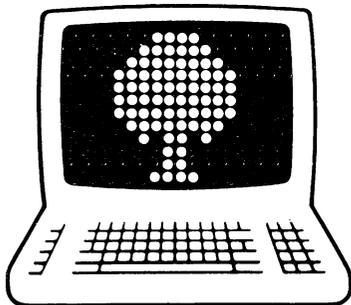
What is pragmatism? What are the major works on epistemology? What are the landmark works in eighteenth (or indeed nineteenth or twentieth) century philosophy? Such are the questions which find ready answers in a splendidly comprehensive and readable *Research guide to philosophy*, published in 1983 by the American Library Association.

In a span of 600 pages, the authors, Terrence N. Tice, a professor of philosophy, and Thomas P. Slavens, a professor of library science, conduct the user through the history of philosophy, from the Presocratics to more recent phenomena, and through specific areas of philosophy, rounding off with a bibliographical excursion into relevant reference works. Like other volumes in the Sources of Information in the Humanities series from ALA this is an excellent example of the archetypal research guide — a work to be read sequentially or at least in chapter-length chunks by students and straying specialists, but able to be digested in smaller portions by reference or collection-building librarians.

True philosophers can perhaps go along with Pascal and 'not care for philosophy'. The rest of us need all the help we can get, and will reach gratefully for Tice and Slavens' *Research guide to philosophy*. It was published by the ALA in 1983 and costs US\$40.00. (ISBN 0 8389 0333 9)

## In a nutshell

*Theological libraries and librarianship: a bibliography* (ISBN 0 949299 03 0) by Coralie E. J. Jenkin. Useful, well-indexed but unannotated bibliography. Worldwide scope, but especially helpful for Australian references. Published in 1984 by the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of South Australia, PO Box 2145, Adelaide 5001. Also available from James Bennett Pty Ltd. \$10.00.



# AUSINET

## BUSINESS WHO'S WHO OF AUSTRALIA GOES ELECTRONIC — EXCLUSIVELY ON AUSINET

- Company name
- Head office and branch addresses
- Parents and subsidiaries
- Activities
- Updated quarterly

- Directors
- Key personnel
- Financial details
- Products and services

Find out who's really who in BWWA on AUSINET from July

Full details from:

Adelaide — Neil Hodges 268 1933; Brisbane — George Notaras 369 5877; Canberra — Hazel Williams 47 0988; Melbourne — David Honey or Ian Jamieson 544 8433; Perth — Don Young 322 2730; Sydney — Adrienne Lambert or Amanda Russell 662 7011; Head Office — Leigh Baker, Helen Myles or Mark Wilson (03) 544 8433.