

Essays on 176 writers from 20 South American countries are arranged chronologically by birth-date in these volumes, with an index in the third volume. Writers in both Spanish and Portuguese come from a wide variety of genres, and a good number of women are profiled. Essays range from four to eighteen pages in length, and average eight pages. A bibliography of original works, translations, and selected bilingual critical studies is included with each essay.

**Recommendation**--With no other comparable reference in English, the long-term investment offsets the cost. Academic and public libraries will want to purchase this work.

Reviewer--Lawrence Olszewski  
*Library Journal*, Nov. 15, 1989, p. 76-80

**Recommendation**--This set meets the same high standards characteristic of other titles in Scribner's Writers series. *Latin American Writers* provides a depth of coverage of these authors that is not found elsewhere, and "will enrich reference collections, especially in libraries serving communities with ties to Latin American culture."

Reviewer--James Rettig  
*Wilson Library Bulletin*, Dec. 1989, p. 147  
\*See also Dec. 1989 p. 32

**Reader's Guide to Twentieth-Century Science Fiction**, comp. and ed. by Marilyn P. Fletcher. Chicago: ALA, 1989. 673p. \$55 ISBN 0-8389-0504-8. LC 88-7815. (Permanent paper.)

■ *The only major drawback to this work is the title, which should read, "Reader's Guide to Major 20th-Century Science Fiction Authors." If that is what you are looking for, you have found it. Each of the 150 alphabetically arranged entries includes sections on: Life and Works, Themes and Style, Plot Summaries of Major Works (covering no more than six works per author), and Biographical/Bibliographical Readings. With four to eight pages devoted to each author, readers can get quite a good sense of whether they might appreciate a particular author. The title index and sources list are important additions. There are also appendices for Science Fiction Magazines and Critical Journals, and Nebula and Hugo Award Winners. Some authors of short science fiction are included. This work ends up being a Magill's Survey of Science Fiction Literature except that it is concise and revolves around the authors and not specifically the works themselves.*

**Recommendation**--Most of this information can be found elsewhere, but for someone new to the field, this is an excellent source for figuring out what to read. Julian Stam, Wayne State University, Purdy/Kresge Library

**Romance Reader's Handbook**, comp. by Mellinda Helfer et al. Brooklyn Heights, NY: Romantic Times, 1989. 353p. \$12.95 (paper) ISBN 0-940338-25-4.

■ An excellent list of pseudonyms, a list of recommended reading, author ads, and used book dealer ads are all part of this self-published book. The author ads include portraits and lists of published works. The used book dealer ads are useful since most of the books listed in the recommended reading are in paperback. The work is spiral bound and will not stand up to heavy use.

**Recommendation**--The list of pseudonyms alone makes this book worth the cost. Libraries with heavy circulation of romance books may want to have reference as well as circulating copies.

Reviewer--Paula M. Zieselman  
*Library Journal*, Nov. 15, 1989, p. 76

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Review Annual 1988**, ed. by Robert A. Collins and R. Latham. Westport, CT: Meckler, 1989. 486p. \$65 ISBN 0-88736-249-4.

■ The premise behind this new annual series is excellent. It is intended to provide librarians and students with a thorough look at the year in science fiction. Unfortunately, the book's reviews of the year's science fiction releases are inconsistent in quality--some are poorly written, others contain proofreading errors. Important works are occasionally given less attention than the year's worst. Several superficial feature articles are included on the genre, along with an interview with "Author of the Year" Orson Scott Card. Major award winners are also listed. There are factual errors evident throughout the work, and several curious omissions. The index lists titles but not authors.

**Recommendation**--This book has many problems, but these might all be corrected in future volumes. This series has potential.

Reviewer--Paul Kincaid  
*School Librarian*, Aug. 1989, p. 126

**They Wrote for Children Too**, comp. by Marilyn F. Apsehoff. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1989. 202p. \$37.95 ISBN 0-313-25981-X. LC 89-2194.

■ This is a bibliography of children's literature written by authors who are considered "adult" writers. The arrangement is by time period with each entry containing an extensive annotation and bibliographic information. Author, title, and subject indexes make entries easy to find, but the price and poor print quality are major drawbacks.

**Recommendation**--Children's literature courses would find this book useful.

Reviewer--Shelley Glantz  
*Book Report*, Nov./Dec. 1989, p. 57

## Music

**Movie Musicals on Record: A Directory of Recordings of Motion Picture Musicals, 1927-1987**, comp. by Richard C. Lynch. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1989. 392p. \$39.95 ISBN 0-313-26540-2. LC 89-2137. (Discographies, no. 32.) (Permanent paper.)

■ Defining movie musicals as feature-length films in which musical pieces relate to the plot, Lynch lists commercially marketed recordings alphabetically. Each entry includes technical credits, casts, and musical numbers with performers. Elsewhere, films are listed chronologically, and there are indexes for performers and technical credits, but, unfortunately, no song index.

**Recommendation**--This discography will usefully supplement large collections.

Reviewer--Bonnie Jo Dopp  
*Library Journal*, Nov. 1, 1989, p. 84

**Musical Terms, Symbols and Theory: An Illustrated Dictionary**, comp. by Michael C. Thomsett. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1989. 277p. \$39.95 ISBN 0-89950-392-6. LC 89-42758. (Alkalline paper.)

■ *The purpose of this book is to gather into a single source a compilation of terms, theories, instruments, and notations of music. Included in the work are a glossary of words and phrases, a multi-language instrument guide, an illustrated notation guide, and a section on musical scales, keys, and chords. The glossary contains short, concise, readable definitions and is amply illustrated. For example, not only is a term such as fugue defined, but a piece of music is provided as well to illustrate what a fugue part looks like. Cross-references are also provided for practically every entry. The multi-language instrument guide contains translations of the names of instruments in English, Italian, French, German, and Spanish. The overall quality of the book is excellent. The binding is strong, the illustrations are clear and the print is sharp and readable.*

**Recommendation**--Although most of the information provided in Thomsett's work will most likely be found in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* and other major encyclopedic works on music, this book deserves to be considered for purchase by all libraries. Bob Diaz, Assistant Librarian, University of Michigan

**Recommendation**--Creation of a musical dictionary is a massive undertaking, and this volume falls short of perfect. Some entries are confusing, others are incorrect. The author's general illustrations may be useful, but otherwise this dictionary is not recommended.

Reviewer--William J. Waters  
*Library Journal*, Nov. 15, 1989, p. 82